

# Strengthening *Voices*



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SPO Case Studies Series



**SPO**  
Strengthening  
Participatory  
Organization

اداره استحکام شرکتی ترقی

# **Strengthening Voices**

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## ACRONYMS

AusAid	Australian Agency for International Development	NNCHD	National Commission for Human Development
BHC	British High Commission	NATPOW	National Trust for Population Welfare
BHU	Basic Health Unit	PCP	Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy
CBO	Community Based Organization	PCSIR	Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSN	Civil Society Network	PO	Partner Organization
CCB	Citizens Community Board	PPAF	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency	PTSMC	Parents Teachers School Management Committee
DPM	Development Planning and Management	RDO	Rural Development Organization
DTCE	Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment	RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
ESRA	Education Sector Reforms Assistance	RPAC	Regional Project Approval Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	SPO	Strengthening Participatory Organization
FIR	First Information Report	SSF	Social Sector Funding
HRCPC	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan	TVO	Trust for Voluntary Organization
HDF	Human Development Foundation	UC	Union Council
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
LGO	Local Government Ordinance	WDO	Women Development Organization
LRP	Local Resource Person	WO	Women Organization
MCH	Mother and Child Health	WAPDA	Water and Power Development Authority
MNA	Member National Assembly	WB	World Bank
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization		

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“Strengthening Voices” encapsulates stories of people who strive to bring about change in their social, economic and political lot through participatory initiatives in the particular socio-economic and political context of Pakistan. While compiling the stories great care has been taken to ensure representation of broad spectrum of society. The people inhabiting the pages of this book hail from diverse ethnic, professional, regional and cultural backgrounds.

Stories in the book were able to see the light of the day because of contributions of several individuals. Admittedly, credit goes to SPO team at regional offices who gleaned stories of men, women and communities that are contributing towards creation of critical mass for social transformation in Pakistan. Special thanks are due to Aziz Ali Dad and Riazat Hussain for editing and designing respectively.

## FORWARD

SPO witnessed expansion of not only its programme area but also geographical coverage in the last two decades, which have witnessed withering away of welfare state and triumph of liberal economy in the world. These tectonic shifts in the world politics and economy also have repercussions on the economy and politics of Pakistan. At political level Pakistan witnessed many vicissitudes in the shape of early dismissals of elected governments and military rule. In economic domain the country is dominated by liberal economic regime of the world. The cumulative result of these developments appeared in the shape of weak state structures and increasing poverty and vulnerability of people.

It is in this backdrop, SPO emerged as the largest rights based civil-society organization in Pakistan. Realizing the dire repercussions of weak delivery mechanism of the state and efficacy of economic liberalization, SPO's work focuses on the marginalized sections of the society. The major thrust of SPO's endeavors is to address the emerging issues in the particular socio-economic and political context of Pakistan. SPO aims at nurturing democracy, justice and peace in the country through capacity building, action research, awareness raising, advocacy, policy dialogue, trainings including tailor made training courses, mobilization of communities, developing partnership with local organizations and encouraging and supporting peace movements.

Amidst the debate about grand narratives of development, dynamics of development at local tend to get ignored. Since power in the modern states operates in a defuse form, it is imperative to organize people at micro level to engage with power relations. This book is a collection of the stories of individuals, organizations and communities who brought about change, however small, in their respective areas. While recording the stories, great care has been taken to ensure diversity in representation. Only by getting insight of individual and small struggles for the amelioration in the condition of life, we can be able to understand the dynamics of development at local level which

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helped communities to survive despite absence of state support and sound delivery mechanism.

These stories do not represent an overall view of the situation but they definitely represent snippets of the bigger picture. It intends to provide perspective of individuals, communities and organizations who pave the way for bigger change by taking small steps. No doubt these are small steps in the meta-narratives of development but giant leaps in the local narrative of community empowerment.

# Case Studies

# 1. ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN OF DISTRICT GWADAR SUPPORTED BY SPO

**T**he Tehsil Ormara is one of the four Tehsils of District Gawadar. It is situated on the east of the District, which touches the border of District Lasbelah. For the capacity building of Good Governance Programme of SPO, the Tehsil council and two union councils have been selected. During the orientation meeting, councilors and representatives of Fisherman Anjuman shared problems of water pollution and killing of sea fish caused by the smuggling of diesel.



SPO representative with protesting fishermen

The smugglers established many diesel pumps on the banks of the sea in Ormara and UC Hud. This is the same place that is used by the local

fishermen for fishing. Hundreds of ships from Karachi ply this area daily for the diesel. Due to non-availability of jetty they cannot dock, and have to anchor at a distance of about one km away from the bank. Diesel is being transported from pumps to donkey carts to small boats and then to the ships. Since diesel is filled in cans, it leaks into the sea during the transportation, loading and unloading process. Consequently, the sea has become very polluted. According to many fishermen interviewed, they are now unable to earn what they need for food for their children even after struggling the whole day to catch fish. Before the illegal diesel business began they were able to earn enough from fishing, and even put aside some savings.

The other problem is that after loading diesel when the ships return to Karachi the seamen also engage in fishing. They use wire nets, locally called *gujjoo*, which drag along the ocean floor scooping up fish or other marine life indiscriminately. The local fishermen are unable to compete with “the big fish” of the fishing industry because their small boats cannot trawl in the deep sea. While on the one hand, unbridled fishing by trawlers prevents the replenishing of fish stock in the sea; on the other, the increasing pollution causes migration of marine life from the area.

Although, local government representatives and fisherman lodged complaints with the local administration, the latter has not done anything mainly because of the absence of the Coast Guards, Pakistan Navy, and Fisheries office. The UCs and Tehsil Nazims, councilors and representatives of local *Anjumans* participated in the first training of UC Module-1. Participant took up this practical problem during the advocacy session group work. They worked on it practically during the interval before the second training. Furthermore, for resolution of the problem they wrote to Fisheries officials, Coast Guard officers, Ministers, the Chief Minister and even the President of Pakistan.

On one occasion, their anger at the worsening environmental degradation by illegal trade and dwindling of their local livelihood source by “the big fish” of the fishing industry was shown when a group of protesters went to the ships with the intention of burning them! The local administration and fisheries officials averted an

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untoward situation by intervening and accepting their demands. Afterwards, the transportation of diesel was stopped and ships went back to Karachi without diesel.

## 2. CASE STUDY OF SANITATION PROJECT IN KHARAN - BALOCHISTAN

Village Noroz, Kalat, is situated at a distance of 32 km to the north east of Kharan District. It presents a green look in its surroundings with orchards and lush green wheat fields, which are further divided by a storm water channel. This channel is the only source of drinking water for the villagers but in the rainy season it plays havoc with the village. The village constitutes a union council with a population of 20,000. Some 40% of the village dwellers are dependent upon government service, whereas the rest of the people are engaged in agriculture and livestock farming for their livelihood.

In the absence of a proper sanitation system, open defecation was common among the people. This resulted in the prevalence of common diseases like malaria, diarrhea and other infectious diseases among those who lived in the area. Women and children were the worst sufferers because of the absence of latrines within their compounds. They were forced to go to places far from their households in all kinds of weather in order to fulfill their natural needs, which sometimes also exposed them to snake bites.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, Anjumane Ittehad Nawjawanane Noroze Kalat (ANNK) - an active CBO working in the area - approached SPO. Before the submission of a proposal they had already completed consultation and conducted a survey of the area with their members. In its proposal ANNK proposed the construction of 70 latrines, so that the problem could be addressed. The construction of latrines has already been completed. Besides, the CBO members are also imparting regular training on health and hygiene education, and proper operation and maintenance of the latrines.

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Introduction of latrines and training regarding health and education were instrumental in bringing about change in the understanding of people about health and hygiene on the one hand, and making their physical environment cleaner on the other. Now changes in the area can be easily seen, as local communities of the area are constructing latrines by themselves with the technical support of CBO members.

Some 700 men, women and children are directly benefiting from the proper sanitation system that has been put in place.

### 3. THE CHANGE GOES ON...

**B**asti Nautak Mahmeed has the population of 9000 souls. It is about 38km away from Dera Ghazi Khan towards the south. Majority among the living castes are Wadani, Baloch, Malik and Mir. The feudal influence was the major cause of under development in the area. The literacy level was very low: literacy of males was 15% while of females were only 1%, and there were no health related facility in the area. Patients used to travel about 30/40km to reach the doctor or the dispensary.

In 1998 a few youngsters decided to establish an organization and named it Rural Development Organization (RDO). During the cluster formation process the group showed a keen interest in building the capacity of its members. The organization was selected as a partner in the Development Planning and Management (DPM) cycle. During training they registered the organization, and in the same period, SPO linked them with Trust for Voluntary Organization (TVO). Keeping in mind the needs of the area in 2001, TVO funded the RDO to establish a primary school worth Rs158, 000. The organization constructed a school building in the area with the help of that grant and started schools for both boys and girls. There was a conscious effort by the organization to enroll more females, as the female literacy ratio was very low in the area. The primary school enrolled 30 boys and 70 girls in its first year.

Keeping in view the demand of the community and a rationalized need to upgrade the school, the organization requested TVO for funding to upgrade the school from primary to middle class. Looking at the success of the project and the development in terms of female education, TVO responded positively by granting funds of Rs17, 34,275 for upgrading the primary school to a middle school, and providing for structural expansion and a school bus.

The organization took the responsibility to bear all the recurrent expenses for the school building and land. Today 200 children are

getting education from the middle school. Among these 150 are girls. Since its establishment the organization has developed by adopting novel ways to respond to the needs and changing demands.

In 2003, SPO supported health intervention, as requested by the CBO, in the shape of a health grant under its Social Sector Funding (SSF) programme worth Rs.279, 000 to improve health facilities in the area. The organization started a Mother and Child Health care center for the inhabitants of the area. In addition, the organization has provided health facilities to more than 5000 patients in its first year; among them 3000 children and 1500 women. Inspired by their successful health project, National Rural Support Program (NRSP) provided support for the organization to construct a permanent building for the health center. The construction of the building has been completed and the center is functioning well.

Rural development organization has become the role model for different villages of the area. This success story proves that if the community is organized and acts collectively, then people themselves can make important decisions about their future, and no feudal system can become a hurdle in their way.

## 4. ANOTHER LIFE SAVED

**S**akeena Mai is a resident of village Jahanian. She is 40 years old with 8 children. Her husband, Allah Ditta, is the sole breadwinner of the large family. She gave birth to all of her children at home attended by untrained birth assistants. She was pregnant again and wanted to give birth to her baby at home as usual, but this time Sakeena had experienced severe pain during pregnancy and suffered from anemia and fluctuations in blood pressure from time to time. Sakeena's condition became so bad that a midwife could not handle it and her husband feared for her life. Because of her deteriorating condition her husband decided to visit a health center.

To get treatment her husband and mother-in-law took her to Ujala MCH center, which has a good reputation in the locality for successfully handling cases related to pregnancy and delivery. Her husband was not used to visiting other private clinics. The charges of other clinics were astonishingly high, and both Sakeena and her husband were panic stricken because they could not afford the high cost of treatment. She was admitted to the community health center and all her antenatal care was taken care of by the center. Because of personalized service and intensive care, Sakeena Mai was able to have a normal delivery. Her operation was successful and she gave birth to a baby girl. After the operation she completely recovered.

Now Sakeena Mai and her husband are happy and thankful to Ujala Women Development Organization as well as to SPO, who made it possible for poor patients like them to get free of cost treatment which otherwise would have been exorbitantly expensive.

## 5. HOW CHHOTI FUNDING CHANGED THE LIFE OF ALLAH NAWAZ AND ZAREENA

It was very difficult for Zareena and her three girls to survive any longer within their very limited income. She and her husband, Nawaz, of Union Council Thana, Tehsil Malakand, were trying their best to earn enough money through various means to provide the basic necessities of life for their family, but they were unable to do so. Although, Nawaz was a trained tailor, he did not have funds to purchase his own sewing machine to set himself up as a tailor.

Meanwhile a CBO, Al-Bilal Falahi Tanzeem, in village Palai Khapa in the area, completed its Development Planning and Management (DPM) training from SPO. The DPO training is conducted by SPO to enable the CBOs to build their capacity, assess local needs and explore different dimensions in which they can deliver results. The successful training by SPO has shown positive results as the CBOs became better organized were able to plan and manage their own projects and become self-sustaining by building linkages with different donors.

Al-Bilal Falahi Tanzeem, Palai Khapa, chose Zareena's family for Chhoti (small) funding. The organization lent an amount of Rs.6000/- to her. With the credit amount from the CBO, Nawaz purchased a machine and the necessary equipment for his own shop and started tailoring. Now he is running his business successfully and is able to support himself and his family. He has also returned the credited amount to the CBO.

With SPO's effective training and the CBOs good management skill and rapport, strategic support was given to a poor family, which was trying to survive in bleak conditions.

## 6. HOW A VILLAGE LEARNT TO WORK TOGETHER

**H**aji Haroon Magsi lives in a village situated in UC Choher Jamali, Taluka Shah Bundar, Thatta. The village is populated by a total of 241 people. They lead a simple life as not many people are educated and there is no development apart from a primary school built in 1988. When SPO visited the areas where the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) had a project, it was sensed that there was a dispute between the villagers over water.

The SPO team decided to meet Haji Haroon Magsi, who was the most influential man in the village. The team asked him if he could arrange a meeting with all the villagers, but he refused and regretted that ‘the villagers are not even ready to talk to each other or cross through their opponent’s land. How can they come over to this place for a meeting?’ So he recommended that it would be better if the SPO team visited them and talked to them, and then convinced them to attend the meeting.

The SPO team followed his advice and met a cross section of the people, such as teachers and senior students, who could influence the village folks. Consequently, the team managed to convince the villagers to gather at one place for a discussion. There was a very positive response and almost 80% villagers attended the meeting.

They discussed issues frankly, shared their experience and talked about their differences. After hearing each other’s points of view, the villagers became sensitive towards each other, and promised that they would not quarrel but would live amicably and cooperate amongst themselves. Since then they are working together to resolve intra village problems. They have decided to respect the opinion of every member of community and act collectively for the greater good of the inhabitants.

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With SPO's effective interaction, guidance and conflict resolution skills a village was saved from wasting time and energy on petty conflicts in their daily lives.

## 7. A RAY OF HOPE IN THE GLOOM

**M**ouza Ditta Baloch is a backward and remote area of Bahawalpur. It is located in the south of the famous Cholistan Desert, 17 km away from Khankah Sharif on the Bahawalpur-Karachi highway. It is a place where a heap of problems remain to be resolved. Early marriages, absence of schools, poor health conditions and facilities, non-availability of electricity and gender inequality are the common issues in the area. The nearest school is 15 km away from Mouza. For this reason the literacy rate among the women is only 29 percent.

Mushtaq Bhatti is a resident of Mauza Ditta Baloch. Surrounded by hopelessness and desperation, Mushtaq decided to fight against ignorance. He admitted his two daughters, Rukhsana and Kalsoom, to the nearest school and exposed them to the light of education. With their own interest and their father's earnest efforts, Rukhsana and Kalsoom finished high school. The young girls then started thinking about the problems of the Mauza and determined to do something about them. Some other women joined them, and they formed a women's group that later became an organization known as Khawateen Welfare Council (KWC). The formation of the women's group and its transformation into an organization was achieved through the guidance and support of a sympathetic lady of Bahawalpur, Parveen Ghauri.

When SPO expanded its outreach programme to Bahawalpur, it included KWC in its cluster. Rukhsana and Kalsoom along with their uncle Riaz Bhatti participated in the Development Planning Management training program.

After the training, the organization started its activities with new vigour, and its first achievement was obtaining a donation of a plot of 08 kanals (approximately 4000 sq. yards) of land. The women members of KWC built the boundary wall around the plot and eventually secured an amount of Rs.50, 000/- from the government's

Bait-ul-Mal fund for the construction of an office building. Their second achievement was to obtain 5 cows from the Bahawalpur Rural Development Programme (DPM), which were given to poor women under an economic empowerment programme. The cows reproduced and their number has now gone up to 12. Also, 16 other women were provided with goats, and 18 women were assisted in seeking financial assistance from Bait-ul-Mal. Through the support of a local organization, KWC provided 100 hand pumps and 200 flush latrines in the Mauza.

DPM training has guided KWC to resolve their problems and manage development oriented projects in their area. Having become aware of women's rights and the concept of gender and development, the women of Mauza Ditta Baloch are now actively engaged with KWC. The men of the area, who were initially hostile to setting up such a women's organization, and disallowed women from participating in meetings and other activities, have now become supporters. A journey for change has been started, and hopefully soon this will become a successful model for other gender and development initiatives in the area.

## 8. THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE RIGHT PATH AT THE RIGHT TIME CAN ACHIEVE A GREAT DEAL

A group of young enthusiastic activists inspired by the work of a development organization in their neighbouring locality, laid the foundation of a community based organization - Sahkar Development Organization (SDO), in village Saeed Khan Lund in 2003. It started its work with activities such as community mobilization for girls' education and poverty alleviation through micro credit with support from Human Development Forum (HDF). The financial and moral support from HDF aroused their interest in community development work. However, soon the group became discouraged because of mismanagement, a weak organizational structure, and lack of clarity regarding objectives, mission and vision. By the beginning of 2005, most of the members of the organization were inactive and had stopped taking interest in any activities from SDO's platform. Later, some founding members requested SPO to enroll members of their organization in SPO's capacity building training programme, Development Planning Management. The SPO team conducted a need assessment, met activists from SDO and selected the organization in one of its clusters. The participation of SDO representatives in the DPM trainings has led to remarkable results.

In 2006, the organization carried out a comprehensive household survey of village Saeed Khan Lund, and developed a five-year development plan to bring change in the living conditions of the people. The plan focuses on a rights based approach to access basic services, including safe drinking water, sanitation, health and hygiene, and education, especially for girls. Meanwhile, the organization also set up a proper office and started keeping records, networking and

establishing linkages with other small and big organizations for implementation of the plan.

They began with an advocacy campaign for labour rights and against environmental degradation (caused by the Abadgar Sugar Mills in Tando Mohammad Khan). The organization persuaded primary stakeholders to demonstrate against the lack of facilities for labourers and for the proper disposal of waste produced by the mills. The organization staged walks, rallies, held strikes, lobbied with the concerned authorities, and filed a petition in the Sessions Court. Influenced by the campaign, the district government intervened and constituted a committee to resolve the issues. After painfully long discussions, an agreement was reached between the mill owners and the CBO under which the mill will give priority to locals for employment, and make proper arrangements to treat and dispose the waste produced by the mill by installing a treatment plant. By demonstrating its vision and mission through program interventions, the organization proved that it had a strong relationship with the community, and that it had a commitment to improve the living conditions of the people.

Next, the organization decided to nominate some representatives from SDO's platform to participate in the local government elections in 2005. They launched a campaign to motivate women to participate actively in the political process by casting their votes. Three candidates, including a woman candidate, were nominated to contest the elections for councilors. All three nominated candidates won their seats and are now actively participating in the decision-making process regarding development work in union council. Under the Local Government Ordinance (LGO), the organization has also registered a Citizens Community Board (CCB), namely the Sahkar Citizens Community Board, to effectively utilize the funds available with the district government for development purposes. The CCB has already submitted a project proposal to the district government to improve the sanitation system in their village, which was originally a part of their five-year village development plan.

## Strengthening Participatory organization (SPO)

SDO has transformed itself into a dynamic learning organization that has learned development methodologies and has incorporated them into its behavior and working culture. The organization has capability to change itself into a strong and effective district level organization for the development of the district.

## 9. EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES

**H**amida Baloch, aged 20 years, lives with her six sisters and mother in the village of Panjshambi at Malir near the mega city of Karachi. She matriculated from a school in the nearby village of Malir. Unfortunately her father died during her studies. After his death she could not continue her education because the family had no money.

One day her friend, Jamila, informed Hamida about the Ujala Tailoring and Garments Centre supported by SPO. She rushed to the centre, where sewing machines were laid out and instructors were busy in training students. The learning environment at the Ujala Tailoring Centre attracted her. That very day she filled the admission form and started to attend the classes.

She completed the three months cutting and tailoring course and also actively participated in the different activities of the women's organization, Ujala Aurat Tanzeem. She was provided Chhoti Funding for buying a sewing machine, and is now working in her home and stitching two suits of clothing per day. According to Hamida, she is happy because she can earn at least Rs.3500 to Rs.4000/ per month. Though she herself was not able to continue her studies she is glad that she can help her sisters, now studying in the private school near the village, to get educated.

## 10. ONE WOMAN'S EFFORTS TO BRING LIGHT AND HOPE

**R**uqqia reveals that when she saw the injustices suffered by women she was motivated to struggle for women's empowerment. Her interest was aroused by religious injunctions, which spoke of justice and equality. With the support of her husband she picked up courage and began to organize the women in the area. But she needed guidance and information. Ruqqia joined Al Asar Organization, a mid-level NGO and partner of SPO in Dera Ghazi Khan in South Punjab, and engaged herself in educational and health activities. From this platform she mobilized the women and sensitized them towards their economic uplift. She attended the Development Planning Management trainings organized by SPO and resolved to work exclusively for and with women's groups, bringing about a change in their lives and making them realize their potential. To attain this objective, she established a women's organization with the name of Al- Qaim.

With the help of Chotti Funding from SPO, the organization started working for women prisoners. They were provided with work orders for making ornaments that were sold in the market. The small project yielded handsome profits, and the organization set up a vocational centre. Earnings from the vocational centre were utilized for small loans to needy women. These initiatives strengthened the organization's relationship with the community and increased its membership. During this time Ruqqia was also elected as a member of the Tehsil Council and Insaaf (Justice) Committee.

Her mobility and prominence as a social worker caused many to envy her. But her prominence in the conservative area of D.G. Khan caused many ripples, and her opponents tried to impede her efforts. Ruqqia's organization was denied government registration because of the increasing rivalry that unfortunately surrounded her. But in due course of time her organization was nominated for coordination and

implementation of a CIDA supported project for providing potable water. The organization successfully implemented the project within the specified time period. Her dedication to pro-people development efforts enhanced her credibility and increased her organization's visibility in D.G Khan, and her organization was finally approved for registration.

Ruqqia is now running a modern technical training centre for women with funding from Bait-ul- Maal. Her dedication and Al Qaim's work in 56 villages has gained recognition from international organizations working in the area, such as Oxfam and UNDP. At present, Al-Qaim has an expanded outreach and a strong presence in the district. Ruqqia's dedication to the work she believed in and her persistence brought light, colour and hope in the lives of many women.

# 11. MAXIMIZING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: A SUCCESS STORY

## Context

Under the project, local farmers were provided training in using modern scientific methods of cultivation and how to make best use of their land. This was followed by a series of field visits. Because of the training local farmers adopted newly learned methods, such as reducing the quantity of seeds when planting, and how to prepare seeds before sowing. Consequently, the yield from maize and wheat crops increased up to 1850 kg and 1700 kg per acre respectively. Similarly, the onion crop yield reached 60 maunds per kanal (550 sq. yds.). As a result, the socio-economic condition of about 35% farmers improved considerably. These were farmers who adopted the new methods in agriculture.

In addition to training the local farmers, TZKT distributed 16 plots of land for onion farming among potential farmers. The farmers were selected by partner CBOs after the trainings. The plots yielded good quality onions at 30 maunds per kanal, priced at Rs.15, 000/-. Because of the training by TZKT and subsequent field visits, the farmers now know what they must do for efficient pre and post harvest management of crops.

To demonstrate, TZKT first raised its own onion nursery and distributed the seedlings among potential farmers. The selected farmers then planted these on their own land. Since then, about 40% local farmers have adopted the new methods and are raising their own onion nurseries, instead of buying seedlings from outside, which used to cost more.

TZKT also developed linkages with the Agriculture Extension Department, local organizations and local farmers. TZKT facilitated the project events, such as trainings, field days etc., with the technical support of the Agriculture Extension Department, Swat.

Tomatoes used to be one of the most successful cash crops of the area, but due to some disease it lost its productivity. TZKT, in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension Department (AED), initiated a tomato farmers' school in the area, wherein AED was responsible for the provision of logistic support, and the farmers for human and technical support. The farmers met at TZKT once a week and shared their knowledge with agriculture consultants, and learned about various aspects of tomato cultivation. The experience of sharing and learning resulted in the regeneration of tomato cultivation in the area, after a gap of 15 years. The farmers' school not only revived the cultivation of tomatoes but was also instrumental in developing sustainable linkages between the community and the Agriculture Extension Department. Based on this model, farmers' schools are also being launched for the cultivation of maize and other crops.

## 12. THE CASE OF THE LOCAL MAULVI WHO BECAME A SOCIAL ACTIVIST

**M**andran Kalan is one of the Union Councils in Dera Ismail Khan (DIK). There is one Government dispensary: one Lady Health Centre and one Mother and Child Health (MCH) Centre in the area, which are managed by SPO's partner organization, Hamdam Development Organization (HDO). These centers were providing health facilities to the community for quite some time, but the people of this area were still in and poor health and suffering from preventable diseases. The women were suffering because of ignorance about antenatal and postnatal care, and infant mortality was very high. Keeping in view the seriousness of the issue, SPO funded a project under the name of "Safe Motherhood". The main purpose of this programme was to raise awareness in the community about the importance of vaccination, antenatal care treatment of women and infants during pregnancy and proper follow-up after birth, and also to provide information about general health and hygienic and epidemics diseases.

Hafiz Shah Jahan, a local religious leader, a *masjid mulla*, who lives in Basti Darbar Wali, UC Mandran Kalan, district Dera Ismail Khan, had married six years ago. His wife had had four children, but all of them had died immediately after birth. Hafiz Shah Jahan, like other people, thought that wearing an amulet or reciting special prayers for his pregnant wife would help his children to survive. After the launch of the Safe Motherhood project, he started to attend awareness raising sessions and participated in the complete training course along with his wife. He also agreed to work as an activist in the area. The couple in turn further extended this awareness to other families in the community.

When his wife became pregnant again, he took care of her and followed the steps taught and the advice given during the training. Both wife and husband visited the health centre regularly for check ups, and they were overjoyed when his wife delivered a healthy baby. Now Hafiz Shah Jahan has two children: a son and a daughter. They all are healthy, and the parents are very grateful to the CBO and to SPO for helping them.

Hafiz Shah Jahan's case motivated many others to access the local Lady Health Centre and follow the advice and guidelines for safe mother and child health learnt in the training sessions.

## 13. WHO WILL GIVE JUSTICE TO LUBNA?

Lubna Sheikh was an eight year old girl who lived in ward no.4 Shah Kamal Muhalla, District Thatta, Sindh. Lubna wanted to go to school, but her father was poor and could not afford to send her. She lived with her mother at home and helped in the household work. She used to go to the market every day to buy toffees and sweets.

On May 8, 2004, as usual she went to buy some sweets from the shop, but did not return home! Lubna's mother went to the shop to find her and asked the shopkeeper about her beloved, innocent daughter. He said he did not know where Lubna was. When the father came home from work, Lubna's mother Haleema told her husband that Lubna was missing. Both of them went out to search again and asked everybody in the community - but nobody could tell them anything about Lubna.

The next day Lubna's dead body was found on the corner of a street. Her parents took the body to the hospital for a postmortem. According to the doctor's report, innocent little Lubna had been raped by four persons, which caused her death. Her father went to the police station and filed an FIR. The police investigated the case and arrested four suspects who confessed their guilt after interrogation. It was found that the culprits were habitual alcoholics.

Lubna's father was occupied with the case for ten days, during which time all the family members were so upset that they were unable to eat. With the father not working there was no income. The Web for Human Development (WHDT) Thatta network took up the case and exposed it through media, which helped to engage notables and politicians to follow up on the issue. The case is still in process and the network is monitoring it on a regular basis. It is hoped that with

support from the network the criminals will be punished for their crime.

## 14. PROMOTION OF PEACE AND TOLERANCE

**S**ocial Welfare District Coordination Council (SWDCC) is a Civil Society Network (CSN) established at an early stage of the programme. SWDCC selected “Promotion of Peace and Tolerance” as the focus of its activities. It organized four seminars on each of the following themes: ‘Role of Social Workers in Promotion of Peace and Tolerance’, ‘Role of Elected Representatives in Promotion of Peace and Tolerance’, ‘Role of Ulema in Promotion of Peace and Tolerance’ and ‘Peace and Human Rights’. The activities of the CSN were lauded by all sections of society, and even those who were against the NGOs participated in the activities and acknowledged the vital role that CSOs can play.

On December 23, 2005, SWDCC (CSN) arranged a dialogue-cum-seminar on ‘Role of Political Workers in Promotion of Peace and Tolerance’ at the Charsadda Press Club. A large number of political activists, male and female local government councilors and social activists attended this unique dialogue - unique because for the first time representatives of different political parties were participating in a dialogue on a sensitive issue for which political parties are mainly blamed.

At the event speakers agreed that political parties are the best forums for opinion building and promotion of democratic values. They said that democracy ensures the protection of human rights and promotion of peace and tolerance. There is no place in democracy for violence. Political parties promote tolerance and provide forums for the struggle for democracy. The religion of Islam and all democratic political ideologies teach their followers to be tolerant.

The speakers admitted that there is some intolerance to be found in political activists, but this is against their political ideologies and democratic values. Those who believe in democracy and political

## Strengthening Voices

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struggles must be tolerant. They said that the use of money in politics and for getting elected had polluted the political process and practices.

They appreciated the efforts of SWDCC and SPO, and assured full support in the activities of the two organizations. The speakers in particular appreciated the dialogue, and said that such dialogues can act to reduce political tensions and disputes.

## 15. WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY

**A**shal Development Organization is a community-based organization in union council Gishkor of District Awaran. This CBO has been working in the union council Gishkor for the last many years. The CBO activities were limited to the union council and by mostly focused on charity interventions on an irregular basis.

The CBO entered into partnership with SPO during the formation of the Awaran cluster in early 2006. It was the oldest organization in the district and a partner of the Tehsil network of Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO), but it was not skilled in matters of organizational development, planning and management. After partnership with SPO the representatives of the Partner Organization (PO) took a keen interest in DPM trainings and their follow-ups. The members were eager to acquire knowledge that could strengthen their CBO. The PO received Technical Assistance (TA) from SPO in the area of organizational management to improve the structure and systems of the CBO.

Technical support was provided to the CBO to develop a project proposal to be submitted to TVO for financial assistance. Recently, the project was approved. The total amount of the project of Rs.2 million is meant for the rehabilitation of 10 *kariaze* (underground water channels). Once it is completed 10 communities will have access to water for crops and household use. Another donor organization, the Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment (DTCE) is considering the CBO as a potential partner for the mobilization and capacity building of Citizens Community Boards (CCBs) and organizations in union councils in Awaran District. This has raised the confidence level of the CBO members and has further increased the trust between them and the community.

## 16. YASMIN: A COURAGEOUS YOUNG WOMAN

**Y**asmin Yousaf is a young and energetic woman of 25 years living in village Ghousabad in Balochistan. She has obtained elementary education in Ghousabad and done her FA privately. After taking her examination she wanted to do something to benefit her community, but did not know how to go about it.

During SPO's visits to the district for the purpose of forming a Women's Organization (WO) cluster, Yasmin contacted SPO and expressed her interest and willingness to help form a women's group. She approached SPO for capacity building. Her organization received Development, Planning and Management (DPM) trainings, and during the follow-up the coordinators saw rapid growth of the WO.

After the DPM training the organization submitted a project to SPO, and after its approval, she began to grow mushrooms in her house with the help of other members of the WO on a trial and error basis. After the approval of project from Regional Project Approval Committee (RPAC) Yasmin obtained training from the Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) for mushroom cultivation. She worked really hard to make the project successful. At the same time, along with other members of the organization, she held several meetings with different restaurants and hotels to market her products. Finally, she succeeded in selling her mushrooms to the Serena Hotel, one of the leading hotels in Quetta. After successfully managing this project she gained a lot of confidence and developed linkages with several other organizations.

Presently, she is working with different organizations on different themes and projects, with the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) on education, with Aurat Foundation for women's rights and governance, and with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Because of her capability and

commitment she was hired by FAO, and is now an important member of a team seeking to bring about change and enhance the image of women in her community. Due to her determination and hard work for the betterment of her community Yasmin is known and respected by her community members

## 17. HARD WORK PAYS OFF

**S**abayon Development Federation has been working as a Civil Society Network (CSN) in District Pishin since the last four years as a partner network of SPO Quetta. It comprises 20 community based organizations. The network is working on the vital issue of depletion of underground water sources in the district. The depletion has taken place because of the excessive usage of underground water for agriculture over several years.

The CSN has taken up the issue of underground water depletion as a thematic focus. Sabayon Development Federation, with its effective social mobilization and mass awareness campaigns in the district, has played a significant role in raising awareness about this issue. The strategy of the network has been to work at two levels: mass mobilization at village level; and lobbying through frequent meetings with District Government representatives and line departments at government level. Further it has also built strong linkages with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

These efforts resulted in a network of member organizations signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IUCN for the water recharge project in Balozai, District Pishin. This is a huge project, which is technically supported by IUCN and financially assisted by the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE). It was formally inaugurated by the Ambassador of Norway and the Governor of Balochistan. Another success has been the introduction of pistachio and olive (*zaitoon*) trees in the district, which consume less water compared to the apples that were traditionally grown in the district. Now a sizable number of farmers in Union Councils Dilsoora and Lash have planted pistachio and *zaitoon* trees on their farms because of the efforts of the network.

## 18. JOINING HANDS TO REVITALIZE AGRICULTURE

The Panjgur cluster of 11 CBOs completed its DPM cycle in September 2005. At the end of DPM cycle, partner organizations were given a one-day orientation on forming Citizens Community Boards (CCBs) and procedures for obtaining local government funds. After the local body elections a delegation of partner organizations of the district under the leadership of the Local Resource Person (LRP) Mr. Ramdil Baloch, met the District Nazim Mr. Assadullah Baloch. They talked about CCBs and requested the district government to support them in their activities regarding agriculture development.

The District Nazim assured them that he would provide funds to the CCBs for agriculture based interventions and requested them to support the district government in formation of CCBs and project proposal development. As a result, one hundred groups were mobilized and CCBs were formally registered. The district government provided them Rs.800, 000, while the remaining 20% amounting to Rs.200, 000 have been contributed by the communities.

The collaborative efforts of SPO, its partners and the District Government Panjgur resulted in the formation of 100 CCBs and 100 projects for repairing 100 *karaizes* (water channels) to revitalize agriculture.

## 19. AN IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCE IS SAVED

**T**he Marra Development Organization, a Partner Organization in the CBO Cluster in Lasbela District attended the DPM-1 training course in November 2006. After the training they developed action plans for activities to be carried out by partners through a rights based approach in various areas of development, such as: environment, gender, political participation and human rights.

In Lasbela District a medium sized tree locally called “Gugul” is found in large numbers. The tree is useful in many ways. It provides shade and wood, and its leaves are used for feeding domestic animals. It can survive for many years without water. Therefore, it is the only means of survival for animals in times of drought.

For the past two years it was found that a group from Karachi, in collusion with local elders, had been destroying the trees throughout the district. They hired laborers to slash it with an ax and collect the white coloured sap or resin that oozed from its all limbs. When the resin became dry they collected it. Representatives of the organization and members of the community informed partner organizations that the resin was being sold for Rs.350 per kg in Karachi. They were unaware about its further use, but meanwhile, the trees were being destroyed.

In order to stop the extermination of Gugul tree, the partner organizations formed a committee, who met the District Government representatives and the District Nazim. The committee shared its concerns about the chopping of the trees and its long term effect on the environment as well as on their livestock. The District Nazim brought it to the notice of concerned authorities of the Forest Department, and through a notification banned the cutting of the tree throughout District Lasbela.

## 20. CHHOTI FUNDING HELPS TO EMPOWER WOMEN

**M**ohammed Tava is a small village in the north of District Kalat. It is 120 kilometers away from main Kalat city. The village is inhabited by the Brahvi community. It has a population of 3000 with 150 households. There are two primary schools, one middle school for girls and one high school for boys in the village. The village also has one basic health unit. Two organizations are striving for the prosperity of the area. One is a men's organization, the Anjuman Ittehad Tanzeem, Mohammed Tave; and the other is a women's organization, the Gindar Khwateen Taraqiati Tanzeem.

SPO started its work in the district of Kalat with men's organizations, and has several partners there that have been trained by SPO. Many of them are working on projects in their villages, funded and supported by SPO and other organizations.

SPO had received many requests from the area for setting up women's organizations, so SPO formed the organizations and built their capacity. There are now eight WOs working in District Kalat. After completing the DPM training the organizations were given Chhoti Funding amounting to Rs.15, 000 with which most of them started vocational centres in their respective communities.

Saleem Khatoon, president of Gindar Khwateen Taraqiati Tanzeem in Mohammed Tava, has recently completed the DPM training cycle, and has been awarded a certificate and sent on an exposure visit to Sindh. Her organization has been given Chhoti Funding of 15000 by SPO, which it is managing very well. In the initial stages women could not give time to it because of their household activities. But the organization did not lose heart and remained undaunted. Gradually Gindar Khwateen Tarqiati Mohammed Tava convinced women in the community to participate and told them about the financial benefits.

Women working at the vocational centre used the money to buy cloth and threads from Quetta city, and stitched and embroidered clothes and other items. The women who already knew stitching and embroidery worked at the centre together with trainees who were learning. They sold their work and shared the profits.

Sharing their experiences, they say that the vocational centre provides them a place and opportunity to meet each other daily and share their experiences. They now have a platform to discuss problems related to women and offer support to women in the village. They are happy that they are earning and are able to add to the household income. Girls are glad that they are able to learn the skills at a nominal fee. Women say that the centre has given them greater mobility and confidence. They also feel that their status in the family has risen because they are now earning members. Organization 'say' in the village has been increased, and WDO has been trustworthy in area.

Membership in the WO has increased and the organization now participates in decision making concerning village issues. The experience it has gained is also useful in running other projects.

## 21. UNION COUNCIL LEARNS THE RULES

The UC cluster Kech was established in the first half of 2006. Union Councils in the cluster were given UC module-2 training on development concepts, rules and responsibilities. Many issues were discussed during the three day training workshop, mostly their role and responsibilities in the Local Government Ordinance and the opportunities it provided. The area in which participants were most interested was the flow of information and funds from the upper hierarchy to the bottom, and development of schemes from the UC to Tehsil and District Council levels. Participants also wanted to know about CCBs and the role of monitoring committees.



Mr. Nasim during the session

A few months before the training workshop the District Council nominated team members and Chairs for monitoring committees. According to the UC Nazim Shahrak, Mr. Naseem Jangihan, the council did not follow the procedures as per the ordinance. The meeting, which formed the monitoring committees, was illegal because the stipulated number of union council members had not participated. When the next session of the union council was held, Mr. Naseem Jangihan moved a resolution questioning the constitutional status of the monitoring committees. He explained the legal procedures to members, and after much discussion the previous monitoring committees were dismissed, and new monitoring committees were formed as per the rules in the next meeting of the council.

## 22. HOW A VILLAGE IMPROVED ITS ENVIRONMENT

**T**he house of Mulla Akram of village Vashbod is situated near the mosque. People who came to offer their prayers at the mosque were forced to pass close to the latrine of the house, but the bad odour from the old fashioned latrine disturbed them. They decided that a request should be made to the local organization, the Wafa Educational and Social Society, for the construction of pour flush latrines, and Mulla Akram's name should be first on the list of persons asking for the facility.

Mulla Akram wanted to know from the project organizers what he would be required to contribute to the project. He was told that he would be responsible for having the pit dug, constructing the roof, for and transporting the required equipment to his house, as well as for feeding the labourers while they worked. The Wafa Educational and Social society would be responsible for construction and other expenses.

Mulla Akram refused and said that the organization should build it for him or else he was not interested. Upon this the others stopped bothering about him and went about constructing latrines in the rest of the village. This considerably improved the health and environment in the area. When Mulla Akram saw this, he changed his mind and contacted the project organizers and asked for his house to also be included in the project.

## 23. A YOUNG WOMAN RE-DISCOVERS THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

**S**PO started working in Gwadar District in 2005 by initiating a women's cluster. At the time of identification and formation of the groups the team faced many difficulties in finding educated women in the district, who could be developed as leaders of groups and represent their groups/organizations in the DPM process. Sahil Taraqiati Tanzeem was one out of seven groups formed in the district for the cluster.

Sahib Khatoon, is a young woman in Surbandar where the Sahil Taraqiati Tanzeem was formed, and she became its president. She had attended six years of primary school when she came into contact with SPO. She was selected as DPM participant by her organization. This year she took admission in class six and resumed formal education, which she had left six years ago. Replying to a question about the reason behind rejoining education, she replied that during DPM workshop she felt the need for education very much and decided to get education after losing six precious years of life. She is happy in school once again, and learning without any hesitation for being in a class with students younger than her.

## 24. SUCCESS STORY OF A GIRLS PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SIA JUNGLE, CHAGAI

Village Sia Jungle is situated 9km away from Dalbandin city in Union Council Chilgazzi. It consists of 15 households. The Government Girls Primary School was one of the shelter less schools in the district. After the implementation of School Improvement Grant T1, the school has its own room, which was handed over by the elders of the respective tribe to the Parents Teachers School Management Committee. (PTSMC)

The School was established in 1997 and its first teacher was Miss Roqaiya. However, no building was allotted by the Education Department, and the teacher used to teach the children in a room which was temporarily given by one of the elders of the village. Later, she found it more convenient to teach most of the time in her own house where she had one room. In winter, when it was very cold, she shifted the class to her kitchen, while in summer a hut was used for teaching. Initially, there were 39 children, but now there are only 14 children enrolled in the school: 11 boys and 3 girls. This is because the scarcity of water and drought in the surrounding areas forced the community to shift to Dalbandin city and Yak Mach.

Despite the disruptions the first appointed teacher has been fulfilling her responsibilities in the school. In 1997, the first PTSMC was established in the school, but it was not active because neither were funds available, nor did any organization conduct any capacity building. In July 2005, SPO/PCP restructured the PTSMC and notified the education department. Motivation and mobilization was started on October 20, 2004 for this school, and the first activity was held on March 1, 2005, which had a very positive impact. The practical groundwork by PTSMC and the community helped to demonstrate the usefulness of the impact of the PCP project. The School Improvement

Grant T1 gave top priority to the construction of a room for the girls' primary school by PTSMC and community. The site was decided with the consultation of the education department, District Coordinator Save the Children and District Programme Officer SPO in September 2005. The land selected for the school was in possession of the ex-Minister for Excise and Taxation, who was an elder of the community, and a community member of the village, who was taking care of his lands, was none too pleased. He refused to allow this particular piece of land to be used for the school building.



To resolve the issue, the District Coordinator Save the Children, the District Program Officer SPO and the PTSMC together tried to obtain this land for the school. Finally their efforts bore fruit as the tribal



elder released the land to the Education Department for the school building. The PTSMC built a *kacha* (mud) room with the first installment of the grant and intends to add a boundary wall and other basic items with the second installment.

### **Community/PTSMC contribution**

The elder of the tribe donated the land for the school building, while the PTSMC and members of the community contributed their labour voluntarily.

Now the school has its own building and land in the village. The students and teacher seem to be happy and are busy learning and teaching. Earlier, the teacher used to teach the children in her house, where if guests came the class was disturbed. Good coordination and teamwork of different stakeholders of PCP and Education Sector Reforms Assistance (ESRA) enabled the community to get things done through the synergetic efforts of the teacher, the parents and the elders of the village. PTSMC now keeps a watchful eye on school activities and progress, and with community members and elders are looking forward to further school improvements with help from PCP.



**Impact/Changes guest of teacher**

## 25. AN ENTERPRISING WOMAN BRINGS LIGHT TO HER VILLAGE

**M**s. Zeenat Daulat Khan is a resident of Ghazi Lane Tehsil and UC Ormara. She came into contact with SPO Turbat during a community mobilization campaign in July 2004. In a community meeting of Ghazi Lane Ormara she welcomed the idea of forming a women's Citizen Community Board (CCB) in the area. Zeenat mobilized a group of women and formed a CCB named Ghazi Lane Taraqiati Tanzeem, and became its first Chairperson.

After attending the first three days of the training workshop organized by SPO-Turbat for six CCBs from the Ormara cluster, she, with a group of women and male members of another CCB, the Ormara Development Organization, started advocating regarding the problem of non-availability of electricity in Ghazi Lane. After many meetings and written communication with the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), they managed to get approval for the electrification of Ghazi Lane. But this was not sufficient to solve the problem. She was told that there were no electric poles. Together with her group Ms Zeenat went to the WAPDA office in the nearest town, Pasni, and managed to obtain 20 electric poles that were lying in the Pasni WAPDA office. They now found that the cost of transportation and loading and unloading the poles was very high. The group returned home and asked for donations from the community, and managed to collect Rs.10, 000, which was all that the economically weak community of Ghazi Lane could muster. This was only half of the amount needed. The group then decided to contact the SPO Turbat office, and forwarded their request for support with recommendations from three other SPO partners, CCBs and the Tehsil Nazim. SPO responded positively. Now the process of electrification is in full swing, and soon more than 100 households will have electricity.

Because of her persistence and efficiency in solving community problems, the community and councilors of Tehsil Council Ormara

## Strengthening Participatory organization (SPO)

selected her unopposed to represent them in District Council Gawadar. There she will have the opportunity to play a vital role in the development of marginalized communities of the district.

## 26. ONE GOOD STEP LEADS TO ANOTHER

The village of Sharif Kahan is situated in the Union Council of Badeni of Nushki town in District Nushki. It takes 10 minutes to reach the main Nushki town and bazaar from the village. The village is in a semi urban area and it has a population of 5000 to 6000 people. Approximately 3000 of the inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, livestock farming, or are in government service and private business. Although, the village is close to an urban centre, little importance has been given to basic services, such as sanitation. Wastewater flows on the open surface providing a breeding ground for germs and disease carrying insects, such as flies and mosquitoes. This causes health problems and spreads infectious diseases in the village population.

The community based organization, Anjuman Falah-o-Bahbood-e-Killi Sharif Khan, started working in the area in the year 1985 with small-scale social activities, such as the setting up of an Adult Education Centre and an institute for learning languages, etc. The CBO asked SPO for support in capacity building. They attended the DPM training programme and completed the full cycle in the year 2001. The skills learnt in the training enabled them to better understand and prioritize the issues of the community and to develop practical work plans. The CBO designed a project proposal for low cost underground sewerage lines in the village. RPAC Balochistan approved it in the year 2004. The following year the CBO started implementation of the project by laying a 1500 ft sewerage line with the first installment it received.

The project led to a chain reaction, and the community utilized the same design for constructing sewerage lines in other parts of the union council on a self-help basis, which in the true sense happened because of the efforts of the CBO and intervention by SPO in the area. The success encouraged the CBO to replicate the same project in other parts of the union council within five months of its initiation.

## 27. A LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY

**T**he Ranra Welfare Organization is a women's organization (WO) in Swat, which started working in 2000. Currently, the WO is operating five primary schools for street children, and is struggling to improve the literacy ratio and quality of life of this vulnerable section of society in the district. The main focus of the WO is on education and women's empowerment, and it seeks to empower women by teaching them skills and enabling them to become earning members of their households. In 2005 the WO approached Muslim Aid for support for a knitting machine. Two batches of women have since been trained.

The WO entered into partnership with SPO for DPM training in July 2005, and during the training it submitted a proposal for raw material for its knitting centre. The objective was to provide income generation opportunities to women who had been trained. After networking with partner organization Khpal Kor, SPO obtained a huge order for the organization to supply sweaters. Since the WO is working on a self-help basis so it did not have enough money to buy raw material to meet the demand, so SPO gave Rs.12000 from its Chhoti Funding scheme to Ranra Welfare Organization for buying wool for sweaters in June 2006. The WO bought 80 lbs of wool and made 160 sweaters with it. The average price of a sweater varies from Rs.150 to Rs. 250. The project provided work to 12 vulnerable and skilled women, who were paid Rs.30 per sweater. The WO made a profit of Rs.25 per sweater, which will be used to buy more knitting machines and for their maintenance. The SPO Chhoti Funding will be used as a revolving fund for raw material. This cycle will be repeated to cope with other orders, to provide income generation opportunities to skilled women, and to generate savings for the organization.

## 28. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION ENSURES THE SUCCESS OF - A COMMUNITY PROJECT

Village Lakho Lanjari is situated at a distance of 26 kilometers on Aadilpur-Sultanpur Link Road to the south west of Ghotki city. It is an historical village because it is situated on the main route from Sindh to Multan and Dehli. It was also known for being a hub for education, religious learning, business, handicrafts and agriculture in the area. Currently it has a population of 3220 people, who belong to different castes and tribes.

In the mid 80s, socio-economic conditions in the village were dismal. As in other villages of upper Sindh, basic facilities were not available, and literacy, especially as far as women were concerned, was very low. Most people in the community were extremely poor, violations of all basic human rights were common, and serious other problems of the village remained unresolved. In view of this, some literate people of the village came forward and established an organization named the Young Lanjari Welfare Association (YLWA) on March 25, 1984. The organization got itself registered under the Social Welfare Act in 1985.

The YLWA was trained by SPO and adopted a participatory approach to development. Before the training, the organization and its leadership did not have a clear concept regarding development issues. They were mainly doing charity work in the village, but after the training, they started working in a more organized manner. They first conducted a survey to identify the root cause of the many problems, and identified the lack of education as being a major cause. Consequently, the YLWA decided to make education the main focus of its development activities. A private school was started on self help basis in 1999, in which affordable quality education was offered to the students.

In the beginning, the school had only 50 students, but after eight years of its inception there are 425 students and 23 local teachers, of which 18 are females. Most of the female teachers are from the village. The CBO has undertaken several other initiatives to provide basic facilities to the village, for example, a micro credit scheme that the villagers have used to start their own business at the local level. Initially, the organization had also started a weekly medical clinic. Later, with the support of National Trust for Population Welfare (NATPOW) a Family Health Project was started in the village. The YLWA is also responsible for operating and maintaining streetlights in the village.

YLWA is an old network partner of National Human Rights Network of the DCHD, and the impact of the partnership is clearly visible in the village. The overall literacy ratio is a high 85% and 65% women are literate. The YLWA's main areas of work are agriculture, poverty alleviation, quality education, human rights, primary health care, environment, and women's rights.

Recently the CBO was facilitated by SPO to obtain support from the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) for putting in a drainage scheme and installing 12 tube wells for irrigation purposes. The CBO was responsible for funding 20% of the cost. The amount was contributed from the community and the local people will collectively implement the projects. The committees worked well and all were engaged in the process. All sections and age groups participated in the different committees, especially the elderly, and took an active part in collecting the 20% share from the community.

The YLWA kept all records efficiently, and helped CBOs from the surrounding areas to maintain their records too.

### Lessons learnt

There was a conflict between the YLWA and another CBO called the Star Welfare Association after SPO funded Star Welfare for a project in 1996, which they failed to implement. The conflict was finally

resolved by SPO after it had lingered on for five long years. The first lesson is that conflicts between POs must be resolved quickly, or else they can destroy the organization. Secondly, there must be one organization in one particular village in order to avoid any conflict. Lastly, it has been proved that active participation by all stakeholders is important for the success of community projects.

## 29. HOW A MEGA PROJECT AFFECTED THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN MIRPURKHAS

**T**he Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD) project was initiated under the slogan of 'fertile Sindh.' The surface drain was designed to drain away saline water from lands of lower Sindh. In order to increase the efficacy of the LBOD, nearly 5000 Tube wells were installed and many mini-surface drains were dug. For this project the government of Pakistan received more than 40 billion Rupees.

The monsoon rains of 2006 produced breaches in the LBOD causing heavy floods in Mirpurkhas District and wreaking havoc in the whole district. Records show that in 1962 the area received heavy rainfall amounting to 170 mm, but there was no flooding. This was because a natural system of drainage had been put in place, which allowed the water to flow out from the Puran and Dhora canals.

The LBOD project design ignored the natural system and made new routes for the excess water. Some portions of the old drainage system, such as the Puran and Dhora, were closed. The artificial system of drainage disrupted the natural drain system that had been in place for hundreds of years.

Almost all parts of the LBOD system, which pass through Mirpurkhas District, were breached, causing thousands of acres of farmland, houses and other infrastructure to be inundated under three to five feet of water. Being conscious of the impending disaster, the District Government declared an emergency. However, there were few places where people could come for food and shelter. Some schools and government buildings were provided shelter to a limited number of people, but arrangements for foods water and other essentials were inadequate. More than 4000 villages were flooded, 90% of the crops were destroyed, some 10000 houses, 10 BHUs and 250 schools

buildings were severely damaged, thousands of people were displaced and 10 precious lives were lost. According to reports the losses were caused because of the defective design and planning by the World Bank.

Keeping in view of the whole scenario, Sindh Net Mirpurkhas, which is a network of 40 CBOs, called an emergency meeting to discuss the floods and develop a strategic plan to cope with the situation. The main focus of the discussion was on the attitude of donors towards mega projects initiated by the World Bank and IMF. To prevent such blunders from being committed in future the following decisions were taken:

- 1) An Assessment Team would be formed and roles and responsibilities would be agreed upon
- 2) Earlier preparedness for man-made disasters, like breaches in the LBOD canal, was necessary
- 3) A campaign against mega projects, such as the LBOD canal, would be designed

Sindh Net has the advantage of having member organizations working in areas all over District Mirpurkhas. The team visited the affected areas and gathered some facts and figures on the ground during their visits.

On the basis of the data obtained Sindh Net organized a one day dialogue on Failure of LBOD and RBOD Projects with the support of Action Aid Pakistan. As part of the campaign the network got full support from the print and electronic media and was able to raise awareness on the destruction and damage caused to people and the environment.

In the second phase the network organized a token hunger strike at the press club in Mirpurkhas, and in third phase in front of the World Bank office in Islamabad. The World Bank Country Representative met with representatives of the Sindh Net team in Islamabad and

promised to initiate an assessment of the losses incurred. In addition, the World Bank Mission for South Asia met with the Sindh Chief Secretary and to discuss the issue and re-assess the design. Some important achievements were:

World Bank panel release the inspection report on LBOD dated September 26, 2006. They admitted LBOD project is not according to master plan.

Fahmida Mirza MNA Badin sat in hunger strike with Sindh Net Team  
Mr. Yuki Tanabi of the Japan Centre for Sustainable Society visited Mirpurkhas and met with Sindh Net team

Government officials of District Mirpurkhas met with Sindh Net team for joint activity.

After the first phase of the campaign the Sindh Net team wrote a Memorandum for the World Bank in which it demanded that: the WB should form an independent commission to evaluate the losses suffered by the people because of the LBOD project; local people should be protected from any further flooding; all the displaced families should immediately be resettled; LBOD and other such projects should not be sanctioned in future; all taxes and other liabilities of affected farmers should be written off; an inquiry should be held to look into the design of the LBOD and reasons for its failure, and; all affected people should be compensated.

## 30. PROMOTING TOLERANCE, PEACE AND HARMONY

The Swat Participatory Council (SPC) supported by SPO is working at the district level for the promotion of child rights. Besides the thematic activities, SPC has initiated a series of dialogues/lectures to promote the culture of dialogue. On November 9, 2006, SPC organized a lecture on Civilizations and Emerging Values. The speaker was Sayed Abid Jan, a local scholar and poet, who has a PhD degree in social sciences from Germany.

The program, designed for a selected audience, was attended by 65 persons from different walks of life - writers, poets, politicians, social activists, teachers and many others. After the recitation from the Holy Quran the host of the programme, Mr. Usman Ulasayar, invited Mr. Mohammad Roshan, President of the Swat Participatory Council, to the stage. The SPC president thanked the audience for participating in the programme at short notice, and the speaker for delivering a lecture on a subject, which was very important in the given global and regional context. He stressed the need of initiating more such events for sharing knowledge and promised to continue the activity in the future.

After the lecture, which lasted an hour, the floor was thrown open for questions and comments and an animated discussion took place. At the end, Mr. Shaukat Sharar, development planner and activist, appreciated the effort and declared it an important step to promote tolerance in society and contribute to peace and harmony.

Mr. Abid Jan appreciated that such a dialogue had been initiated in *pukhtoon* society. He said that after the fall of the USSR and subsequent end of the cold war in the final decade of the last century hopes, raised had been in southern countries that democracy, peace and prosperity, equality and fraternity would be the next world order. People began to think that socialism had vanished and democracy had

survived and succeeded, but all these hopes were dashed to the ground when the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan took place. A number of books were written on the subject, like *The End of History* and *The Clash of Civilizations* by Samuel P. Huntington. In the first book it was said that communism had been defeated and capitalism had succeeded. In the second, Huntington came up with the idea that the coming world wars would be fought on the basis of civilizations instead of economic gains, and a clash of civilizations is inevitable.

With this development the clash of civilizations became a burning issue on the world stage. But it is necessary to analyze this, as the writer misuses the term and civilizations do not teach war. Wars are always fought on economic grounds. The American invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan were undertaken because of economic reasons, and not civilizational differences. There is no war between Christianity and Islam; both jointly fought against communism a few years ago. The movement of Latin American countries against the United States of America clearly demonstrates that the war is being fought for economic hegemony. People in Latin America are not Muslims but yet are in conflict with the US.

We must first understand the terms culture and civilizations, often misused by intellectuals themselves, and should also know the factors responsible for their growth and development. There are above three thousands definitions of the terms culture and civilizations, which unfortunately differ from each other. However, agreement is found among scholars on some of the definitions. Culture, according to a valid definition, is the sum total of spiritual and material means, and civilization is its highest and most refined form. According to a renowned scholar, the use of wisdom in nature is culture, which means all those things that differentiate humans from animals. The advanced form of cultures is civilizations. A civilization is just like an umbrella, which encompasses many cultures of the same values. Civilization is the sum total of material and spiritual values. A human being is a social animal and needs material as well as spiritual things, such as poetry, art and creative activity. Civilization is manifestation of human development.

There are many factors responsible for growth and development of human civilization. One and foremost is the means of production, which further refines human civilization and defines human relations. The second one is geographical environment or weather conditions, which effect development of culture and civilization. The third important factor is ability to think and reason, and also religion.

Unfortunately, the book on the clash of civilizations predicts a clash of religions, which seems incorrect as no religion preaches a conflict or 'clash' as a moral value; rather all religions of the world preach peace and love. Earlier European scholars had defined civilizations on the basis of 'ages': the stone, bronze and other ages. Marxists define civilization on the basis of class. It is unfortunate that we live in an age of globalization and advanced technology, and instead of promoting wars and hatred we, the people of world, should promote the values of love and tolerance and promote peace justice equality and human integration. Sayed Abid Jan's lecture was followed by a discussion.

## 31. WOMEN OBTAIN GAS FOR THEIR VILLAGE

**K**illi Dur Mohammed is a village in the west of District Sibi, only 30 minutes away from the main town of Sibi. Its population of 2700 people and 100 households speaks Brahvi, Balochi and Sindhi languages. SPO has formed women's organization in the area in response to the request and interest of the community in 2005. There are schools and a health centre in the village and a District College nearby, which is easily accessible.



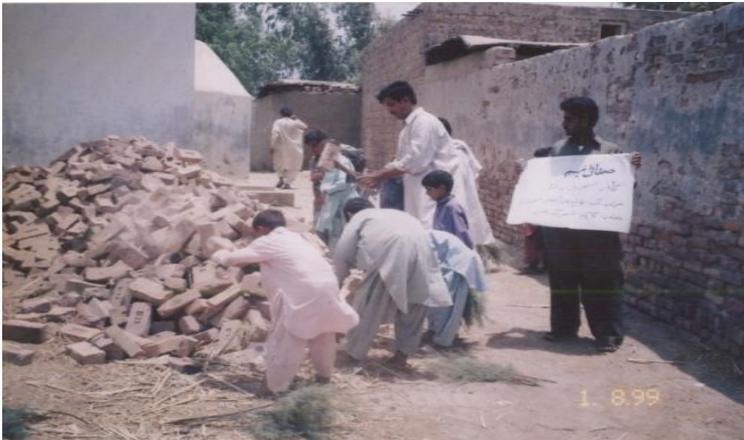
The Star Women's Development Organization in Killi Dur Mohammed has been working in the area for the last three years. The organization has recently completed its DPM training from SPO and been on an exposure visit to Sindh.

Although village Dur Mohamed is very close to the main city of Sibi, it's the houses did not have gas connections. The Sui Gas pipeline passes near the village but it was not extended to the area. The WDO

decided to address this problem by taking the issue to the District Nazim. A delegation of the organization first met with the local Union Council Nazim and then went to the District Nazim and held a series of negotiations. Though the formalities took nine months, the women's efforts bore fruit, and approval was given for putting in a gas pipeline to the village. The pipeline has now been laid and soon gas will begin flowing to the village homes. SPO played the role of catalyst in the formation of WDO, which in turn played a key role in providing a basic service to the village community.

## 32. COOPERATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY, NGO AND GOVERNMENT DELIVERS GREAT RESULTS

**T**he Aghaz Social Welfare Association was established in District Tando Mohammad Khan in 2003. At the initial stage, a group of youngsters decided to address the basic problems confronting their village, such as absence of electricity and proper roads. The group was totally unaware about the concept of development and how NGOs worked. The group began by helping people acquire computerized identity cards, offered support during emergencies, and established a school with the support of the Human Development Foundation (HDF).



After one year, members felt that a formal organization should be set up and the Village Based Association (VDA) was formed.

The objectives of the organization were: Provision of education for girls; increased adult education; Provision of basic health care services; Provision of water and sanitation services. In addition, the organization also facilitated the Micro Credit project of the local NGO, Human Development Foundation.

The SPO team intervened in the area with the intention of forming a CBO cluster, and met with the HDF team for identification of potential organizations. In the orientation meeting members of VDA gave a briefing about their progress and requested the SPO team to be included in the new cluster. The SPO team visited the village and found that VDA members were dedicated and had leadership qualities, but they had no proper structure, organizational system or financial procedures. The leadership was guided to formally organize the group structure and apply for registration. So the Aghaz Social Welfare Association was formed and selected for the DPM training. After attending the DPM-1 workshop the trainees demonstrated their newly learnt skills by forming a Citizen Community Board.

The Aghaz Social Welfare Association defined their vision, mission and objectives, which are:

### Vision

Sustainable and developed society where the common person has access to all basic facilities and basic rights.

### Mission

Empowerment of basic institutions for the development of the masses through universal primary education, primary health care and micro financing for rural communities.

## Objectives

- To improve the health status of communities in the rural areas and to cover the areas of maternal health and child health
- To improve the water and sanitation in rural communities through rural water supply schemes and rural base drainage schemes in order to reach the millennium development goals.
- To sensitize the society for the empowerment of women and children's rights
- To work for a friendly environment and a socially balanced society
- To work for universal primary education
- To provide soft loans to the community and empower vulnerable social groups

During DPM training phase the trainees play their role for the generation of funds, development of organizational systems and procedures, holding regular meetings and establishing linkages with the government and non-government organizations, organizing campaigns on hepatitis, polio awareness, local government, mobilization for elections, voter awareness seminars for women, establishment of girls school, and the paving of streets with the support of the Human Development Foundation.

A remarkable achievement of the leadership was the formation and registration of the Citizen Community Board (CCB), which built strong linkages with the district government. Initially, the CBO received funding of 1.4 million rupees for drainage and brick pavement schemes for Village Shameer Khan Lund in which the total community contribution in cash was Rs.0.28 million. After the successful

completion of first scheme, which benefited more than 1000 peoples, the CBO got Rs.6.5 million through CCB funds from the district government for paving the streets in seven neighboring villages of union council Allayer Turk. During this process the CBO leadership faced many challenges, from the district government to the *taluka* council, but they remained steadfast and approached the provincial Planning and Development Department for releasing district government funds that had lapsed.

The organization also received Chhoti Funding from SPO for an income generation project in the village. The CBO is running 4 schools: 2 for girls and 2 for boys with the support of HDF. They claim that in this project they have achieved the Millennium Development Goal for education, which is 100 % enrolment of children. The CBO also received a school grant of Rs.76, 700 from Piaman with the support of ESRA and constructed a class room, and had a room in a primary school renovated with the contribution of 50,000 rupees from the.

Medical camps were organized with the District Government and other institutions, and six workshops and 13 seminars were held under the voter education project in different villages.

Special days about environment awareness, International Aids Day, International Teachers Day and International Human Rights were celebrated. The organization has strong networking and working relations with Human Development Foundation, Aurat Foundation, and Trust for Voluntary Organization (TVO), UNESCO, British High Commission, HRCP and Paiman.

All in all the organization received more than 8 million rupees from government and other donors, and is a role model for the district. It is also facilitating other organizations in registering Citizens Community Boards and providing technical assistance in developing proposals for them.

### 33. A COMMUNITY LEARNS ABOUT GOOD HEALTH

**U**nion Council Mandran Kalan is located 40 kilometers outside Dera Ismail Khan City on Chashma Road. The main occupation of the people is agriculture, government employment and laboring on daily wages.

Before SPO signed a partnership agreement with the Hamdam Development Organization (HDO) this area was facing many problems, particularly in the health sector.

Although one government dispensary, a government women's health care centre, and another health centre established by the HDO were providing medical services to the community, people continued to suffer from common avoidable ailments and problems related to maternal and child health. The community did not have knowledge about infectious diseases and pre and post-natal health issues. For the treatment of such diseases and health problems the people depended on talismans and prayers, and very few patients went to the MCH centre.

The members of the Hamdam Development Organization decided to talk about the issue and create awareness among the community members, but all in vain. Then, realizing the seriousness of the situation, the organization members contacted the SPO Peshawar Office to ask for advice. Consequently, SPO, with the support of the CBO planned a health project for the area, which was implemented after being approved by RPAC. Six women and two men were chosen to be trained as trainers. They attended a six-day training course according to the plan, and were assigned the responsibility of further training 60 female and 60 male community members to inform and raise awareness about issues concerning health and hygiene.

During the trainings and workshops the trainees were provided information about communicable viral diseases, post-natal and antenatal care, and general health and hygiene. The 120 participants shared their knowledge and experiences with other members of the community through small sessions and corner meetings.

After the completion of the project the situation in the union council improved visibly, pregnancy related problems and maternal and child health showed a marked improvement. Now the people of the area understand the need for hygiene and cleanliness, and men and women consult the health centre for advice and treatment. The ratio of viral diseases has also decreased.

## 34. ROSHNI WELFARE SOCIETY- AN ACTIVE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION IN SIBI

**T**he Roshni Welfare Society (RWS) is situated in north of Sibi District. The population of the area is 3000 people and 200 households. Most of the inhabitants are Sindhi and Baloch.

The Roshni Welfare Society has been operating for the last three years in the locality. This partner organization of SPO has 39 members. The organization has a well equipped office, holds regular meetings and maintains proper records. In terms of organizational management it is performing very well.

At the request of the community a women's organization was also formed. The WO attended SPO's DPM training cycle and was awarded with the DPM graduation certificate. Members of the organization also undertook an exposure visit to Sindh for further learning. This gave them experience and confidence to work for the prosperity of community.

The organization held a quiz competition in the government primary school, Garibabad, Sibi. The Tehsil Nazim, Mir Asghar Marri, was invited to the programme as the chief guest. School girls arranged the function and participated in the quiz competition. The programme was highly appreciated by the guests and students. Students were given gifts and lauded the organization's efforts for educational development. The organization used the opportunity to share the problems and challenges faced by the school with the Nazim. Some of these problems were:

- The low salary of the peon
- The poor condition of the school building

- The absence of toilets

The Nazim approved a higher salary for the peon and gave a grant of Rs.150, 000 to the school for the construction of toilets. He appreciated the organization for its hard work and offered the

use of a hall for programmes and big forum. The Nazim further said that he would help them when they required any assistance. The school children and the headmistress were very appreciative of the organization, and happy that its efforts had helped to solve many long standing problems. The Roshni Welfare Society was requested to organize more functions that enriched the knowledge of children as well as teachers.

Other activities of the RWS:

- Organizing seminars, meena bazaars and celebrations on all important occasions
- Helping poor women of the area
- Managing Chhoti Funding for income generation
- Facilitating women to obtain loans from Khushali Bank for income generating activities and daughters' dowries.
- Conducting surveys on *karo kari* with Oxfam; being change makers
- Voluntarily working with Islamic Relief for the distribution of Ramazan Package for poor women
- Helping women victims of violence and referring their cases to the women's centre

## 35. MAKING SURE THAT GIRLS GET THE EDUCATION SHE HERSELF NEVER HAD

**M**y name is Lal Bibi Baloch. I am 35 years old and I am illiterate. I have three children, a boy and two girls. We live close to the sea shore in Gadani, Sindh. That is why the main source of our livelihood is fishing. In my village there are no any facilities, such as: schools, basic health, and paved roads. We go to Hub Chowki, which is 35 km away, for the treatment of very minor illnesses.



The majority of the villagers are illiterate, backward and with stereotypical attitudes. The males do not allow their women and children to go outside to get education. When I saw all these issues, I decided to stand for election in my district. I was elected and become a district councilor.

Being a novice in politics I did not know how to proceed in order to be useful to my community and those who had elected me. I liked my job very much, but the problem was that I did not know the mechanisms and procedures of politics. Fortunately, the SPO team visited my village. I gathered all the women of the village and formed a women's organization, the Shail Women Welfare Society. We attended their Development Planning and Management (DPM) training on Basic Development Concept. There I have learned about development, rights, gender, environment and politics. The DPM Training taught me the skills that I needed to do my work. After the training we were able to get funds from The Citizens Foundation (TCF) for improving girls' education in the village.

I then succeeded in getting approval for setting up a middle school for girls. For this I donated my own piece of land, which is worth Rs.500,000. We were also successful in obtaining a recommendation from the Chief Minister of Balochistan for a link road to the village.

I am grateful to SPO who helped me to help my people.

## 36. SAJIDA FINDS AWAY TO HELP HER FAMILY

**T**he Women's Cluster Kalat in Kalat city has been working in the area since 2004. The organization has attended many workshops conducted by various NGOs and GOs. The population includes a Baloch community whose members have taken the DPM training from SPO, and been given their graduation certificates and sent to Sindh for their exposure.

The organization was given Rs.15000 by SPO as Chhoti Funding. In the meeting the members, decided to give Chhoti Funding to those women who are the neediest, and five women were selected. Sajida is one of them.

Sajida has passed her middle school. She has three children, and her husband works as a driver. She was eager to contribute to the family income but could not get a job because of her low qualifications. She joined the organization and was given the funding, and is now able to earn while sitting at home.

Sajida was given an amount of Rs.2000 from Chhoti Funding received from SPO. She bought cloth and embroidery designs and started her work. To start with she bought one set of block print designs at a cost of Rs.2000. She now has eight sets, and charges Rs.150 per suit for printing the design on the cloth. She is now expanding her business.

She says that she is earning well, and is happy that she is helping to support her family economically. Because of this Sajida has gained self confidence and feels good about what she has attained through her hard work.

## 37. VILLAGE WOMEN DISCOVER THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

The Balochistan Education Foundation (BDF) is a women's organization working for women's empowerment in District Mastung. The organization has completed the DPM training cycle organized by SPO, and is working actively in the area. It is an excellent example of how small loans given as Chhoti Funding, can make a difference if used efficiently and innovatively. The organization received Rs.21000 from SPO as Chhoti Funding, which was given to women to generate income.

### Hava Bibi

She is member of BDF, received Rs.3000 for buying embroidery designs. She bought five *thapy* (wooden blocks for stamping embroidery designs on cloth, which is then embroidered by others). She earns Rs.20 for each design that she stamps on people's dresses. This enables her to pay back the installments for the loan to the organization. She has now bought 12 *thapy* and is thankful to SPO and to BDF that she is able to earn an income while sitting at home.



Hava Bibi is happy that the Chhoti Funding has enabled her to improve living conditions for the family, as previously only her husband, a peon in a school, used to earn and that was not enough to meet the needs of the family. Now that she is an earning member, she feels more confident about participating in family decisions. Most importantly, she has realized that women, even uneducated women, can also do things for themselves and not always be dependent on others.

## Zeenat

Zeenat is the office secretary in BDF, and she too took a loan from Chhoti Funding. She had studied up to the intermediate level but could not get a job. So she decided to start some work from the house. She took Rs.5000 from her organization and, being creative, thought of an unusual idea. She makes mobile covers, key chains and jewelry with pearls. These are beautiful and unique and her products are bought up quickly. She says that on one mobile phone cover her cost is Rs.100, but she can sell it for Rs.150. She has returned half her loan and will soon be able to return it all.

Zeenat is earning good money, and this helps to supplement the family income. All the time she is learning more about the market and how to manage a new business. She is now confident that she can do anything if she sets her mind to it.

The BDF claims that because they can help people through Chhoti Funding, their membership has increased. People see that the organization has helped in a concrete way, and is not only making promises; hence the confidence of the community in BDF has increased.