

Sami Foundation

DA-34 Umerkot

(June 2009)

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End Poverty Together

SAMACHAR

Good learning brings good change



Girls of Village Meenhro showing their drawings

We are very happy, we can draw good pictures and colour them. We want to send picture to our friends of Spain and they will be very happy to see our work. We want to make good pictures for ever with colourful pencils we want to draw trees but in our village people cut the trees. We can not go out for this



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Impacts of Action Aid work on life of desert people

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Journey toward change (Summary)

The DA-34 area is underdeveloped and most of the villages are deprived of basic facilities of health, education, water, sanitation and road. The public services in the essential areas (such as education and health) are either short in supply or very poor in quality and performance. Especially youths are more frustrated due to lacking economic opportunities therefore there remain chances of their involvement in drug addiction, anti-social activities and crimes.

The goal and mission of the organization is to empower people to the extent that they themselves can lead the social change securing their basic human and constitutional rights with dignity. This matches with the mission of Action Aid which also have firm believe in bringing the change in people' life with the own will and wish and with their leading role in decision making regarding their lives. Keeping in view the objective Sami Foundation with the partnership of Action Aid through sponsorship funding has started the work on six themes (*Women Rights, Education, Health & HIV/AIDS, Good Governance, Human Security and Food & Hunger*) since January 2008 in eight villages of two union councils.

WOMEN RIGHTS

Issue:

Women the most deprived and ignorant segment of the society are not treated equally and gender disparity prevails resulting in less education of girls, unequal treatment at household and community level, low wages in labour, less opportunities of participation in social gatherings, lacking role in decision makings at all levels from household to society level.

Interventions:

Eight women groups are formed comprised of 20 women from each village however 10 active women from each group are involved as member of village organization in all DA villages and continuously strengthening the 184 women of eight villages to access their basic rights and stand by the men through different trainings of RBA and organizational management. Beside this 24 women are providing the opportunities of income generating through trained them making handicrafts and utilizing their indigenous crafts with new techniques and by organizing different events like international women day with more 200 women at village and DA level and Women Mella (Fare) skill development training and participating in crafts exhibitions etc.

Output:

After the interventions of Action aid and Sami foundation very positive change occurred in women of the DA area. Women are now the part of development and participating in all level decisions and their mobility out of village has also increased many women are making handicrafts and selling in local market and at village level. They do regular meetings and discuss their issues for further presenting in CBO meetings, beside this they are focusing their health and education and practicing the hygienic methods at household level and sending their girls in DA schools regularly.

MY CHILDHOOD DREAM CAME TRUE (WOMEN RIGHT)

Parvati D/o Desai Mal UC Kaplore 25 years old working as a teacher in GGPS Viklokar run by SSSS with the support of Action Aid Pakistan

She said:

"I got primary education from GGPS Harijan Para Umerkot and completed higher secondary school after that I got admission in govt girls degree college Umerkot and I regularly attended the XI class, my father insisted me to move back to village Viklokar and I could not continue my intermediate. I get six thousand (6000) salary from DA school which is running with the support of SSSS and Action Aid Pk. Our Monthly income is low and expenses are high because I spent Two Thousand Rupees on my mother's health she is patient of Blood Pressure and Sugar she regularly takes medicine of Rs: 50 daily."

"Before the work of Action Aid Pk & SSSS I was working as a volunteer teacher in my village and then Nasreen come in our village and hold meeting with the women and formed women group and I am selected as a General Secretary of Women group."

She has potential and will to develop her village and want to see the women of village educated.

"I daily read the news paper among women group and also inform them about the basic disease of women. I wish to participate in your all activities and play my active role to do something for women of our village and want to become an example for all women of desert. I am very much thankful of Action Aid and SSSS for giving me this opportunity that now I am able to fulfil my dreams. I do work of home and support to my mother to cook the food and fetch water from dug well."



CHILD RIGHTS (SPONSORSHIP)

Issue:

Children are also facing problems of diversified nature mostly they are treated in ignorant behaviour in households, in schools they also do not avail encouraging environment and such behavioural problems restricts them gain confidence in their personality, stop analytical skills, participation in events etc.

Interventions:

Action aid and Sami foundation keeping the intentions of children in view has initiated the diversified interventions with children at village level. Opened learning centres for working children at village level and involved more than 500 boys and 700 girls in different activities like organizing drawing competitions, quiz competitions, games and singing competitions among the villages and ensured their participation in all activities. Beside this organized exposure visits for 30 boys and girls and events celebrated at village and district level with more then 200 children to build up their confidence.

Output:

Partnership of AAPk and SF has left the credible impact among the village children and motivated them to come forward and raise their voice for their bright future. Children are very happy and when our team goes to village they happily run and come to meet our team. They sit in CBO and women group meetings some of them are very active and participate in all village activities and do work with our team like bringing patients to doctors, call the villagers for meeting and ICS activities has enriched their skills of drawing and singing. They are now using hygienic methods like cutting nails, brushing teeth, wearing washed clothes etc.

I WANT TO SEND THE PICTURES TO MY FRIEND AT SPAIN (CHID RIGHTS)

Twelve (12) years old Prem Kumar S/O Tago Meghwar, Ramsar

"I study in seventh class Govt middle school kaplore, it is vacation so I totally spent my time at home I wake up at early 6:00 Clock and then I go to Parr (well) on a distance of five kilometres from village for fetching water and come back to home at 8:00 AM and then take break fast and do the other work of home. I like drawing very much and draw parrots, peacock, donkey, dogs and flowers."

"My father is tailor master and he sews the cloths of villagers my two

elder brothers do work at Karachi in garment factory my father loves me. I want to become a painter and draw many paintings to earn lot amount to give my father for marriages of my sisters."

Tago, father of Prem Kumar thinks of his future

"Prem Kumar is too much intelligent he is good in Drawing. We wish that Prem Kumar will be officer and we will proud on him. Prem is also sponsor with Actin Aid and he given four times message to DA team. He likes this lot. This activity created interest of drawing in me. I am thankful to DA team and Sami to sponsor me I want to make more drawings and also want to send some pictures to my friend at Spain who sending me money."

"Bahadur Khan Khoso (Sponsorship Focal Person) and Nasreen Qambrani tell us about the sponsorship now I know very well about the sponsorship. "I want to complete my education and I want to become a good artist, I am interested to participate in Drawing competition so I request to DA team that if there is any competition held at any where so give me chance I will participate in that and I will win that competition. "



HEALTH

Issue:

The situation of health facilities is worst than of education two BHUs each in one Union Council, having no qualified doctors as well as other necessary equipments and facilities. Only Dispenser run dispensary which is a mockery and people are left at the risk of quacks practicing without any qualification or certification and playing havoc with the lives of poor people. Beside this due to less concentration of health department people of the areas are not aware about their health issues vaccinations and other preventive steps.

Interventions:

Sami foundation in collaboration of Action Aid Pk has initiated the diversified intervention keeping the worst situation of health in focus. Mobile health clinic comprising of a team of three members (MBBS Doctor, LHV and Dispenser) provided the medical check-up facility to 4764 people of DA village and surroundings (1048 male 2104 female and 1612 children) however 24 cases (10 male, 12 female and 02 children) were identified as serious patients and referred to concerned health departments for further treatment. With the funding of Action Aid lump sum medicine of Rs: 285,820-00 was purchased and provided to community on least rates than market. Beside this health and hygienic awareness sessions were organized separately for 415 men and 776 women however during the reporting period 356 women and 167 children are vaccinated during the year.

Output:

Due to our mobilization people of the DA area not more but less are motivated and realized the importance of health especially women now coming for checkups for instance, Natal, Antenatal and Post natal and are agreed to vaccinate their children and their selves. Beside this community is little bit encouraged and developing their linkages with health department. Men behaviour toward women health issues is also changed they are taking care of pregnant women which they never practiced before. Women are encouraged and realized that they were really nothing before but have more now to contribute for betterment of society.

I AM HEALTHY TO WALK AND WORK (HEALTH)

Sixty (60) years old, Saloo S/o Soajo living at village Bhadi has only two married daughters, his wife is died and now he is living alone in his house.

"I have been living here since my birth and have two dauhters who are married in other village my wife is dead and I am living alone in my house I have not any income resource except some cattle (8 goats, 3 sheeps and 2 donkeys), I have some relatives in the villages but they never cared about me."

"Iam patient of arthritis I have pain in my leg joints and backbone (spinal cord) due to severe pain since last 10 year I can not walk and do work easily. I have spent very larg amount on my treatment and took medicine from umerkot, Chachro but not benefited from anywhere. I have sold my ten goats and two sheeps for purchasing medicine. Finally I left everything on my destiny and sat at home. There is no health facility nearby our village we have to go to umerkot for treatment which is very much costly and therefore people ignore their diseases."

"I feel difficulty to do work of my home like rearing the cattle, cooking food, making tea and fetching water therefore I got help from my neighbours for every thing sometimes they do and sometimes they refuse."

He is old but has much stemina to work hard if he could be healthy

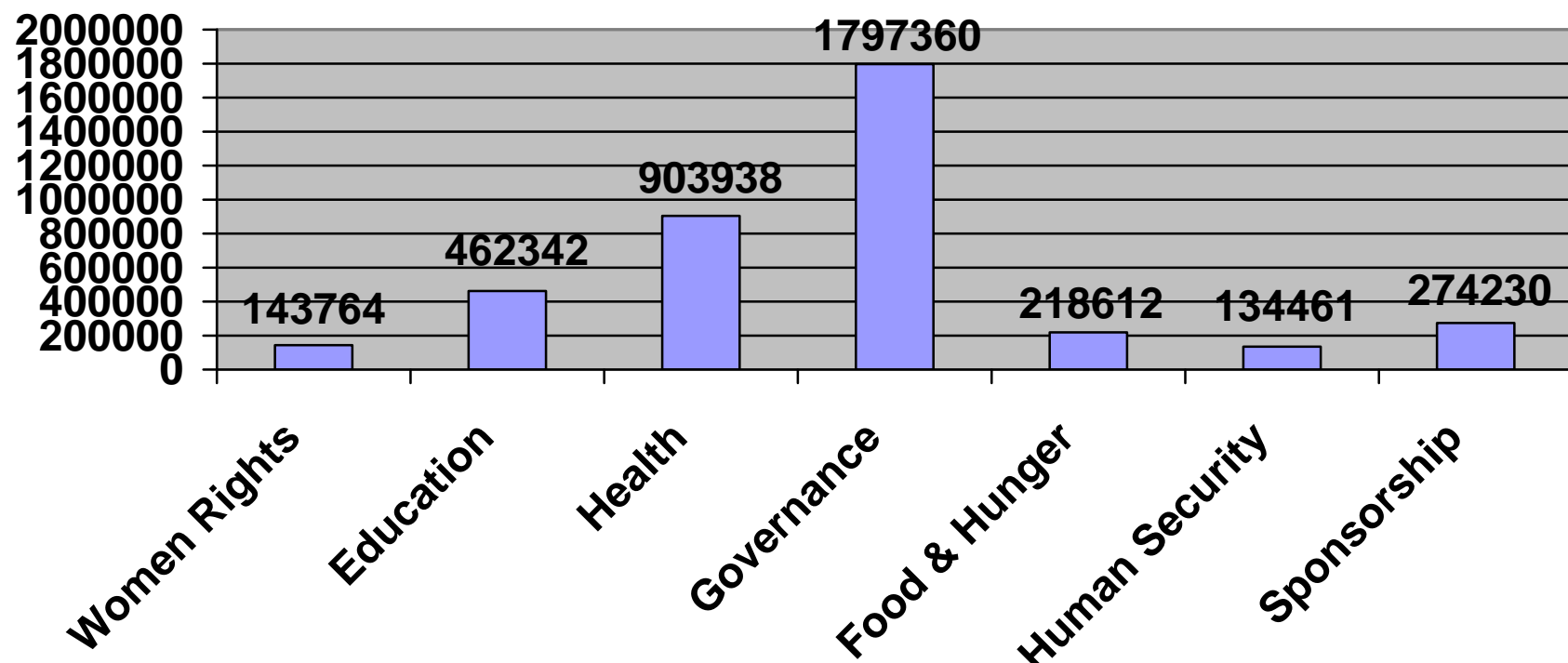
"Dr. Yousif comes to our village every week one of my relative who is the member of health committee said me to come and breif to doctor about the disease he will definitely make you healthy. I was very disapointed and refused to go with him, second time he came with doctor and doctor convinced me to do checkup" I told the detail of my disease and expenses occurred on treatment since laast ten year he said that I have been misguided by some quackries I can be ok soon he reffered me to Umerkot civil hospital for some tests and started my treatment with getting a penny from me."

"I am taking medicine from mobile health clinic of Sami and feel better now I look after my cattle and food cook myself and feel some pain in my legs but better than before I am very thankfull to Action Aid and Sami to come and work in our village like angel for us. I also support them when they come to village."



Saloo is walking with two sticks

HOW FUND HAS SPENT (October 2008-May 2009)



HOPE FOR THE NEXT (*Future Plan*)

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

In continuation of above practices Sami Foundation has observed that the community of DA area should be more strengthened and committed toward their rights and better access however, overall strategy of DA to enable people of area through social mobilization, capacity building, advocacy campaign networking and coordination with stakeholders. In this regard SF has planned to organize trainings and exposure visits for CBOs and youths/volunteers to enhance their capacity of learning and implementation to ensure their positive role. Women segment always ignored though SF has planned to provide the skills development training and opportunities like *Women Mella, Crafts development training, participation in crafts exhibition, Formation of Women Right Action Forum, Sessions for political awareness* for their earning and valuable existence in the society besides providing them right based awareness.

Looking the worst condition of health it is also planned to continue the health services for the next besides providing the health and hygiene awareness sessions focusing the district and village level seminars of Hepatitis, T.B and HIV/AIDS however, health committees are formed at village will be strengthened for effective coordination and linkages development with concerned department. Although, sponsorship is directly related to the education therefore, it is also planned to continue the teacher support in DA school which were opened by Action Aid and Sami Foundation and adopted by Government earlier. Teachers will be trained through trainings of quality education, behaviour change, school management and village education committees are formed would be more strengthened in future. The DA area is totally rain fed agriculture and livestock dependant, people are witnessed severe droughts every alternate year. To overcome the issue gradually SF has planned to continue the seed bank duly established last year with extension of seed to provide the DA community on return basis for their timely support of food and enable them to reap good crop and earn to sustain their livelihood.

Village based disaster management committees are formed and plan to strengthen them for effective coordination and networking with line department and DA level through quarterly meetings and trainings. Beside this a survey would be conducted for the drought situation assessment and prepare the report to highlight the major impacts of drought, donors and line department would be advocate and mobilize according to the facts of survey report.