

GOVT GIRLS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL KARIANWALA

رَبِّ زِنِّ لِي عِلْمًا
 "O. ALLAH! INCREASE MY KNOWLEDGE"
 (ENGLISH MEDIUM)

What are LSOs?

LSOs or Local Support Organisations are central to the 'Social Mobilisation' approach of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). In a bid to reduce poverty and empower marginalised people (especially women), the RSPs mobilise rural communities into a three-tiered structure, which consists of Community Organisations (COs) - neighbourhood level community groups, Village Organisations (VOs) - village level federations of COs, and LSOs - union council level federations of VO. LSOs are able to carry out community-led development at a much greater level due to the advantage they gain from numbers. As the tertiary tier, LSOs are also uniquely able to develop linkages with government and non-government organisations, donors agencies and the private sector.

LSO Initiatives

LSO Roshni

Date of Formation:	8 April, 2010
District:	Gujrat
Union Council:	Chak Kamala
Total Households in Union Council:	2,483
Organised Households:	1,509
Coverage:	61%
No of Village Organisations (VOs):	10 (all mixed)
No of Community Organisations (COs):	101 (62 men's, 39 women's)
No of General Body Members:	20 (18 men's, 2 women's)
No of Executive Committee Members:	10 (all men)

SOCIAL MOBILISATION

When the LSO was formed, 1,054 out of 2,483 households were organised under 65 COs (38 men's and 27 women's) in the UC. Over the last two years, the LSO leaders organised 455 additional households under 36 new COs (24 men's and 12 women's) on a self-help basis.

IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF BASIC HEALTH UNIT (BHU)

Due to poor management and facilities, the local BHU was unable to address the health needs of the community in an acceptable manner. The LSO organised a meeting to discuss and resolve health



Ultrasound machine at BHU Chak Kamal arranged by LSO

related issues. As a result of the meeting, a Local Health Council was established. Each village nominated 2 representatives in the Health Council. These representatives are active members of the LSO. A 5 member Executive Committee was also elected out of the general members. The President and the Manager of the LSO were appointed as the President and Manager of the Local Health Council. The Health Council is actively supporting the BHU. It has so far been able to arrange an ambulance, a generator for electricity during load shedding hours and an ultrasound machine. Moreover, the LSO checked the eye sight of 145 children and provided glasses for 49 of them free of cost with financial support of NCHD. In addition to that it arranged spraying against Dengue mosquitos in the entire union council. With the help of the Local Health Council, the BHU has become a model health facility.

POVERTY TARGETING

The LSO conducted a poverty scorecard survey of the entire UC and identified the poorest and destitute families. In addition to that, the LSO has so far arranged monthly food rations to 10 poorest families in villages Jasso Saria and Jhammat Abad through Al-Khidmat Foundation and also arranged scholarships for 5 poor students from Al-Falah Scholarship Scheme in villages Chak Kamala and Chak Meeran. The LSO also collected cash donations



Girl student who was injured by teacher



LSO meeting in progress

of Rs. 16,200 and clothes and *qurbani* hides worth Rs. 10,400 for the flood victims of village Jasso Saria.

CHILD RIGHTS

Recently a lady teacher in the Girls' High School Kalyan Wala hit a girl student with a stick that badly damaged one of her eyes. The girl belonged to a very poor family. The LSO discussed the matter in its meeting and decided to protect the rights of the children in the school. The LSO contacted the ex-Nazim of the UC to seek his support. They met the school administration and arranged Rs. 4,000 for treatment of the injured girl from school funds. Moreover, they made the Headmistress of the school agree to bear the cost of any additional treatment of the poor girl. In addition to that, they made the school administration permanently ban the use of sticks in the school to punish the students.

PROMOTION OF GIRLS' EDUCATION

The LSO has been trying its best to promote girls' education in the area. A local Girls' Primary School was in very poor condition in terms of educational facilities. It had no boundary wall. Due to lack of class rooms, two to three classes had to sit in a single room. The LSO contacted the Punjab Education Reform Programme and managed to construct the boundary wall, two class rooms and a veranda for the school. The LSO also arranged floor mats for the class rooms because there was no furniture in the school and the girls had to be seated on the cement floor. The LSO has converted it into a children friendly school by introducing a number of extra curricula activities. The LSO also celebrates an annual event and arranges prizes and medals for the top scoring students in their annual exams. The prize distribution event is attended by parents, community leaders and school students and teachers.