

LSO Initiatives: LSO New Shama

Advocating for Electricity

The entire Tehsil of Karakh is deprived of electricity - the nearest electricity lines are 75 kilometers away. The people of the area have repeatedly requested their MNAs and MPAs to provide them electricity to no avail. Four previous Chief Ministers of Baluchistan publicly announced the provision of electricity, but nothing happened on the ground.

The LSO leaders recently learned that the Government has been laying electricity transmission lines for District Khuzdar, which passes through their UC. The LSO leaders organised the local people and submitted an application to the Chief of KESCO, but he did not listen to them. Consequently, the people demonstrated against the project and stopped their work. Meanwhile, the LSO formed a committee which went to Quetta and held a demonstration at the Press Club. Following their protest, the Chief Minister invited them to his office and listened to their demands. He also called the officials of KESCO to his office and arranged Rs. 250 million for supply of electricity for Tehsil Karakh. The work is in progress at the moment.

Date of Formation:
30 July, 2010

District:
Khuzdar

Union Council:
Sun Chakoo

Total Households in
Union Council:

1,285

Organised
Households:

1,285

Coverage:

100%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

165

105 women's

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

10

4 women's

No of General
Body Members:

20

1 women's

No of Executive
Committee Members:

10

1 women's

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 VOs. 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.



Advocacy for Promoting Education

Most boys and girls in the union council would not go to school past primary or middle grade levels, for lack of a school to go to. There was only one middle school in the entire union council, which was for boys. The other option was for children to travel long distances to study in a neighbouring union council – which almost never occurred.

The LSO formed a three member committee to improve the education facilities in the area. The committee met their MPA at Quetta, as he has never visited his constituency after winning the election. Using detailed data, the committee members described the grave situation of education to the MPA and recommended upgrading the Boys Middle School to Higher level and four Girls Primary Schools to Middle level. The MPA was highly impressed at the initiative of the LSO leaders as nobody in the past had come to him with such preparation and clear ideas. Therefore, he immediately telephoned the Provincial Minister for Education who ordered the upgradation of all five schools.

The MPA, who is also the current Provincial Senior Minister for Planning & Development immediately ordered the construction of five additional class rooms in each one of the five upgraded schools. Within a short period of two months, the construction work was 75% complete.

Advocacy for Provision of Government School for a Marginalised Village

Village Pir Bari, comprised of 45 households, is situated in a hilly area and far off from other settlements. Despite the repeated demands of the local people, no government school was

established for them, leading to one hundred percent illiteracy.

On 25th June 2014, it came to the notice of the LSO leaders that the Deputy Commissioner (DC) was planning to visit a newly constructed natural gas plant near the village. The LSO decided to take advantage of this opportunity. With the help of the village people, they prepared placards demanding the establishment of a government school in the village, which were held by children of school going age along a road which the DC was going to pass. The young girls and boys stopped the convoy of the DC near their village by displaying the placards. The DC met with them, listened to their demand and immediately ordered the establishment of a primary school. He transferred a teacher from a nearby village and the school started in a rented house. Within no time, 90 students, 60 girls and 30 boys had enrolled in the school. The DC also promised to arrange for a school building in the near future.

