

## **Creating Resilience at Grass Roots- Community Resource Persons trickling down the knowledge!**

### **A case from VDMC Kherar UC Keenjhar, Thatta**

“ Previously we had no idea about what to do if there was some disaster”, said Ms. Kaniz Fatima of village Fateh Muhammad Soomro while talking to visiting team from USAID- RSPN Tahafuz project. She said that they have faced many natural disasters but the 2010 floods will be remembered for their widespread destruction. Remembering the incidence she said, “Now when I look back at that time I cannot believe that any one could have escaped that disaster. But Allah saved our lives. Assets can be created but not life”

She said that government officials and other non government organization came for their help but mostly all these efforts were unorganized. Some influential or stronger households fetched undue share and the others were left with minimum support. There was a felt need of getting organized to face such situation. But no one was coming forward to take lead. Then the villagers were invited to a meeting where staff from Tahafuz project presented the idea of getting together at village level. The entire population welcomed the idea and after a few sittings decided to form VDMC. This was a new experience for them as Ms. Kaniz said,” We were very excited when asked for selecting our representatives. The committee was formed with equal representation of women. This was so exciting that women voice could now be heard.”



### **Awareness session in progress at VDMC Kherari in UC Keenjhar**

According to her the real story started after formation of Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) when the selected members received training in disaster management. These trainings were given by the staff from USAID-RSPN Tahafuz staff from NRSP District

Implementation Unit (DIU). She said that this was a learning experience and they learnt about different types of disasters and how to face them effectively. After receiving this training they selected one man and one women member as Community Resource Person (CRP) for disseminating the learning down to household level. Ms. Farzana and Mr. Rajab Ali are taking sessions at hamlet level where community members gather and learn about disasters. These sessions have proved very useful and community members are taking keen interest in learning. Members from all age groups come to take part in these sessions and learn about disaster management. These sessions are proving very helpful in creating awareness and resilience at grass root level. The community is hopeful to manage any disaster in more organized and efficient manner.



**Ms. Farzana CRP VDMC Kherari delivering awareness session at a settlement**