

## Behavior change through knowledge

Knowledge is the key element to change the behavior of individuals and groups and if it is related with health perspective it will be more transferal. It is a fact that rural population of Sindh is striving hard to live a healthy life but due to unavailability of resources and opportunities, the people are deprived of good quality health conditions.

In district Ghotki; RSPN-Sindh Rural Support Organization in collaboration with UNICEF and IKEA foundation started an awareness program within a center referred as multi-functional community centers to make the community aware of the basic information on leading a healthy life, giving education regarding early marriages that includes vaccination during pregnancy, male & female Child Care, prevention against diseases, child education, mother care, birth registration, child labor and physical disorder etc. Village Gul Muhammad Malik is 7 km away from Khanpur Maher town comprising of 120 Households. The villagers lack the basic knowledge of leading a healthy life and significance of clean environment although there are three individuals who are educated but they have not enough resources to bring change in the routine life of inhabitants. Before the existence of RSPN-SRSO; child marriages was a common practice of the villagers but now after the awareness sessions refusal is observed in this issue which is also linked with a mishap. Two girls at the age of 12 years got married in a nearby village and after a period of 6 months they faced a lot of maternal discrepancies and died within 6 months. After this mishap the community resource person's delivered the session on disadvantages of child marriages through role plays. The community got sensitized by this act and change in their behavior was observed. As a result they have started vaccination of antenatal and natal care, birth registration, latrines construction and in addition to it they have enrolled their children in the schools.