

CPR, the Life Saver!!!

Dedki is among the most remote revenue villages with very low literacy rate. Located at a distance of 45 kilometres from main city and poor transportation system, even a minor incident at village often results in major loss. RSPN with the help of its implementing partners has initiated USAID-CBDRM Tahafuz in four districts of Sindh, Thatta/Sujawal, Badin, Umerkot and Tharparkar, to engage these vulnerable communities. The community members are first organized into formal structures as Village and Union Disaster Management Committees. Once organized, they are empowered through capacity building initiatives and small scale mitigation and management measures.



The situation of culvert and road passing through VDMC Dedki. It becomes more difficult and take huge time to reach city in case of extreme emergencies.

Ms. Bajaho is the President of Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) Dedki, which was formed under the Tahafuz project. Having representation of community members from various settlements within revenue village, the VDMC has 28 members. As part of capacity building, VDMC members were given training on Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment and Disaster Risk Management and Planning. Ms. Bajaho also received this training with other members from her VDMC.



Mr. Bahajo describing the story while the rescued little girl Jannt (in the centre) can be shown standing with her colleagues.



In the beginning she faced a lot of resistance from her family members who were reluctant to allow her to go for training as these were not held locally. She said, "It was very challenging to convince my family as they considered such trainings to be of no use and a mere wastage of time". She continued, "With the persistence and motivation I finally managed to convince my family and eventually took part in training".

She added, "On September 15, 2014, while I was busy in my routine household assignments I heard some disturbing noises from the neighbourhood. On reaching there I found that my niece, Jannat, aged 6 was in cataleptic condition". Given the inadequate resources and lack of medical support, it was not possible to provide little girl the professional medical assistance. Ms. Bajaho who recently learnt first aid skills during training requested her parents for allowing her to give Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to that child. Owing to CPR which she performed for couple of times the girl was resuscitated. Soon after the successful recovery of little Jannat, everybody including Ms. Bajaho's family who opposed the idea of getting training, appreciated Bajaho and regretted their earlier decision of not allowing her to get training. She said, "We are thankful to USAID and RSPN for enabling us to face any type of disaster or mishap in organized manner."

Ms. Bajaho now believes, "Whenever there is a disaster either natural or manmade, it is the community which has always been on the frontline to face it. It is therefore utmost important for members to be given basic awareness which can enable them to withstand hazardous situations effectively."