

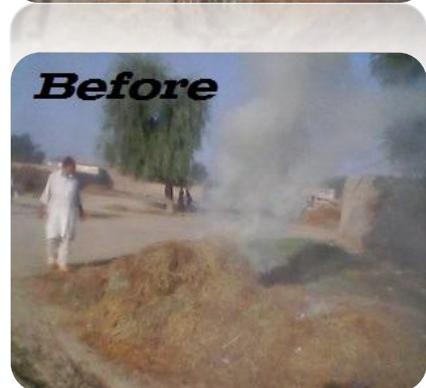
Case study of CRP Ms. Kanwal Jamal from UC 15 Chak 21/10-R

Community Resource Person (CRP) Ms. Kanwal Jamal of village 21/10R, UC 15 of district Khanewal in the province of Punjab undertook an initiative to remove a large garbage heap near the Government Model Primary School (GMPS) 21/10R. This GMPS is located at the entry point of the village, where villagers were disposing off their garbage and animal feces. It was an immense problem, as the main entry road to the village was choked due to the garbage, preventing any vehicle to pass through, not to mention the health consequences.

When RSPN launched the DPCP in Khanewal, UC 15 also came under the project. A Village Health and Hygiene Committee (VHHC) was formed and CRPs were identified and trained for awareness raising and community sensitizing on diarrhea prevention and control. Some villagers constructed new latrines in their homes while some others made functional their previously blocked or closed latrines.

Ms. Kanwal shared, "I feel honored to be selected as a CRP by the VHHC. I came to know about the DPCP program when some of the members of DPCP came to our village and discussed the project objectives and interventions in a gathering. Most of the people from our village were present in that meeting. After that meeting our VHHC was formed and I was selected as the CRP for my village. I was dreaming to see my village neat and clean from the time of my selection. To convert my dream into reality I talked to VHHC members and we decided to discuss it with the community. In this regard, we met with some well-known and reputed individuals of the community to formulate a community plan of action for the improvement of our village. But the main problem was the scarcity of resources. To overcome this problem we planned to collect funds from our friends, relatives and neighbors. After fund collection, we arranged equipment such as trolleys and escalators to remove the garbage deposit and shift it away from the village."

Ms. Kanwal was very pleased that the first step of cleaning the village succeeded. Mr. Muhammad Arshad, one of the members of the VHHC also shared that it was very satisfying to see people people appreciating our efforts to make the village clean. He mentioned that this garbage dump was on the way to the playground where all inter-village tournaments of the nearby villages are arranged. When teams from other villages would come here to play they would ridicule and pity the cleanliness situation, which would leave them feeling ashamed. After this garbage removal however, the guest teams appreciated them lot and they felt pride and honor at their achievement.



Speaking about the hurdles faced and responsiveness of the people, Mr. Arshad stated that in the beginning, some people approved of the program while others were opposing it by saying that this is not our responsibility but rather the government should be held accountable for cleaning the village. However, once the garbage was removed and people saw the improvement, there was a lot of appreciation and support.

As this garbage dump was in close proximity to the school, the Head Teacher was also solicited for her views. Mrs. Rukhsana Naz stated, "A School is a place for one to learn new things and to enhance his/her knowledge and understanding of the surroundings. The environment of school should be clean and child friendly. How could a school play its role in child learning and grooming which itself transforms into a dirty pond on a rainy day and had a huge deposit of garbage at its door step?"

The school is constructed below road level and filled with rain water on a rainy day, and on some days it seemed impossible to keep the learning process ongoing. The RSPN team also asked her to level up the courtyard of the school in order to avoid the rain water entering the school premises.

She shared, "I was impressed by their idea and decided to utilize some of the school budget to level the courtyard of the school with the help and cooperation of the community. The community also did an amazing job to rid of the garbage dump outside the school. These little children were prone to diseases due to this mess and now it is safe both inside and outside of the school."

Additionally, male and female CRPs also gave health and hygiene sessions at the school in which they discussed health and hygiene practices for children. In these sessions, children learnt how to wash hands with soap properly, using the toilet and the importance of washing hands. A community member stated, "I attended a meeting with Ms. Kanwal and learnt a lot about health and hygiene. I was surprised to hear about the benefits of latrines and dangers of open defecation. I had a latrine at my home but we were used to defecating in the open. Now, I have made constructed a pit and connected it with the latrine so we are not defecating in the open anymore."

