

An initiative that changed her life

Mrs. Tasawar Khanum, a 30 years old lady from a Syed family, lives in Chak 8 NP, Union Council Muhammad Pur Lamma located some 35km west of Rahim Yar Khan city. She is married for last 12 year and has no children. She and her husband are matriculates (completed 10 classes of high school). Her husband is a small farmer who earns on average about Rs 12,000 per month. Since Tasawar had no children, her husband married gain some five years ago and was not very supportive to her.

Tasawar Khanum is poor, but eager to explore new possibilities to bring change in her life.



In April, 2013, the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) entered into a partnership with the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) to provide reproductive health services to the far flung and uncovered areas of district Rahim Yar Khan. Tasawar Khanum was selected as Community Resource Person (CRP) by the community in an open dialogue conducted by the project team in her village and her husband was selected as male CRP.

Both the CRPs went through basic training conducted by the NRSP district team. The training enhanced the knowledge, communication and interpersonal skills of CRPs. Tasawar Khanum then started her work in the assigned area by registering 182 married couples from the target community and organized group meetings, a mobilization activity, with all the registered women in a group of 15 to 20 in each group. Her husband conducted the same activity with registered male members of the community. To maintain a regular and sustainable contact, she visits all the registered married women of reproductive age on monthly basis through house to house visits.

Due to her good performance and commitment she was selected for 'Business in Box' (BIB), a sustainable approach to provide reproductive health services in the community, in May 2015 by the Village Health Committee. She successfully completed the training in social marketing and received community's support through VHC to promote her micro enterprise on a sustainable basis. She visits her catchment households on fortnightly basis and covers 20 to 25 households daily. Presently she is working with 300 households, 102 family planning users and meeting their needs of reproductive health by providing them contraceptives and other related items at their doorsteps. She also sells small household use items. Her clients trust her and they are happy with her dedicated services and professional approach. With a small but regular income, and respect from the community, Tasawar feels herself more strengthened and empowered. With improved livelihoods, she is also improving her life.