



Monthly

## E-NEWSLETTER

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### Reach us at

Sami Foundation Head Office  
Near Eye Hospital, Akbar-e-Azam Road, Umerkot  
Post code 69100, Phone: +92 238 571 593  
[sami.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:sami.foundation@gmail.com); [www.samifoundation.org.pk](http://www.samifoundation.org.pk)

Editor: Suresh Kumar Pragani  
Editorial Board: Dr. Haji Hoat Khan Babur  
Ishaque Sand  
Bahadur Khan Khoso

### SF Vision

SF envisions a just, inclusive, equitable, enlightened and responsible society.

### SF Mission

SF works with marginalized groups for integrated community development and socio-economic empowerment through access to basic facilities, human resource development, partnership building, awareness-raising and rights based advocacy.

### SF Core Values

- Respect for all
- Team building
- Non-discrimination
- Inclusion
- Co-existence
- Transparency & Accountability
- Humanity is above all

### Our Slogan

*Bringing Change Together*

### From Editor's Desk

The arid region of the Sindh province, spread over thousands of kilometers including Tharparkar, Umerkot, Sanghar, Khairpur and Dadu districts. There were so many dialogue, discussions and discourses, seminars and conferences organized by government as well as non-government organizations and institutions and recommendations were made for developing a separate policy as well as establishment of an authority for addressing key issues of the region. All these areas of the arid region have been facing drought like situation after every two years that multiplies hardships and vulnerabilities of the people living in these areas. Like other areas of the province access of people to basic social services in the arid region is a common issue but access to drinking water and appropriate healthcare services are biggest issue in whole region and drought severely effects on both these services as well as cause loss of livestock which is the biggest source of their livelihood. Thar commission recently gave its serious observation regarding bad governance of all services institutions/departments and held them responsible for increasing peoples' vulnerabilities and hardships.

***It is time to take these observations and recommendations of Thar Commission seriously and take concrete steps towards legislation on Drought Mitigation Policy and establishment of development authority for arid region including Tharparkar.***

### BUILDING NEW PARTNERSHIP – WORKING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Sami Foundation has been in coordination with NCA for almost one and a half year and had an activity partnership besides working in a project of NCA with South Asia Partnership Pakistan. During this period discussions on various issues relating to minority rights violations and peace building initiatives in the area were under discussion and process of developing concepts and conceiving some project for intervention was under way.

The process was continued and after developing concept and full proposal, the same was sent for approval to NCA head office by the end of the March the project was formally approved. The partnership of Sami Foundation with NCA is materialized under its peace building programme to implement a project in district Umerkot titled as "Joint Social Action for Equal Rights and Opportunities for minorities of faith and belief in Pakistan" to promote tolerance, peace, inter and intra-faith harmony and social cohesion.

## Local Rights Program

During the reporting month the following key activities conducted under programme of LRP-34.

### Broad Based community Meeting

Under the strategy of organization it was decided that LRP team and Program Manager will conduct a dialogues and sensitize CSG and village community that how they can meet the challenges and issues of villages and develop strong linkages with line department as well as other stakeholders and CSOs working in the area and also planning to implement new projects in this area with the organize way of CSGs on need and priority base planning of village .7 villages were covered in this month and conducted meetings in evening time on demand of CSG and availability of community

### Quarterly meeting with Women Rights Action Forum

Quarterly women Rights action forum meeting was conduct in reporting month where representative of line departments and CSOs participated also shared the progress & specially working for women participated in meeting, WRAF members shared BISP,



Population and livestock department related issues and then there suggestions were noted related issues and taken positive action for the resolving on

significance basis. Building linkages with other stakeholder especially media to highlight women related issues.

### District level and 14 village level enroll campaign rallies:-

Every year Sami foundation actively plays a role to organize enrollment campaign rallies on district and village level rallies and organize seminars on the importance of education and to increase literacy rate with



the collaboration of education department and other civil society organizations on starting education year from 1<sup>st</sup> April, participation of teachers parents and media for the awareness and to sensitize and motivate the community to enroll their out of school children a ( 4 to 9 years girls and boys in nearby schools). On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 a large rally was organized starting form Taluka Main school to press club Umerkot where speeches were delivered by notable participants Mr. Muhammad Luqman Nohri Coordinator RSU, Mr. Mir Hasssan Arisar Program Officer Sami Foundation, Mr. Abdul Haleem Soomro from Right to Play delivered the speeches on importance of education and objectives of rally in same way rallies also conducted in 14 LRP villages for above said objective in which SF team CBOs, CSGs, Youth, students teachers women and community members

participated and delivered slogans and messages with the rounding within villages and different Paras of whole villages found keen interest of whole participants about education of their children and sensitized to send them in nearby schools .

## Celebration of Global Action Week on Financing Education through Tax Justice

### Enrollment Walk & Meeting with CSG in Village Rohiraro, Kunbhar Bhada & Akhi Ji Dhani

Activity conducted in LRP-34 villages , A CSG meetings also held aimed to celebration of Global Action week & students' parents, community, CBO members and youths participated in enrollment campaign rally and demanded from education department through whole participants that to reopen and deployment of teachers in GPS



& GGPS in schools of different villages of LRP-34 and also demanded availability of electricity and safe drinking water and demanded to increase education budget for according to need and for quality education, school infrastructure in this desert area.

### Radio Messages on airing on FM Radio

Sami foundation also supporting with the financial support of AAPK to on air different slogans and

messages in Sindhi language on **Indus FM Radio 95.4** for enrollment campaign which is listing in district **Umerkot**, some area of district **Tharparkar, Tando Mohd Khan and Ghotki** . Indus FM-95.4 transmission is covering these districts areas where the community and different stakeholders getting information about education and getting interest for this important & major cause of enrollment of 4 to 9 years out of school girls and boys and importance of education.

**Micro Finance and Enterprise Development**

Sami Foundation’s MF&ED project provides assistance to poorest people of the area, especially women, to initiate and strengthen their small enterprise for better livelihood and socio-economic uplift. During this month 17 beneficiaries selected as group members and 07 as individual through a comprehensive process and verification.



**Promoting and Protecting Rights of Thar Coal affected communities**

**Coal Area Background** Tharparkar District is spread over nearby 20,000

sq. kms whereas 176 billion tons of coal reserves is exist on 9,100 sq Kms. In this regards Thar Coal Energy Board Act. 2011 is passed and implemented, the board will deal all the matters related to Thar Coal, hence it’s initially placed the 12 Blocks to make the work as easier and these 12 blocks covered the 1210 sq km area in east surrounding of Islamkot Tehsil. The work is started in 02 Blocks, in Block-II, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) is working on open pit mining and in Block-V, Underground Coal Gasification Company (UCG) is working on gasification method since 2010.

Sami Foundation (NGO) is working in District Tharparkar on “Promoting and Protecting Rights of Thar Coal affected communities” since long; in this connection Sami Foundation is implementing the Advocacy based activities in Thar Coal Area villages. Initially Sami Foundation is working in the area of Block-II and Block-V villages on advocacy campaign and knowledge transformation related to the rights of the local people in Thar Coal area, to convey the message in villages as their basic rights related to Thar Coal.

Sami Foundation formed the Village Support Groups in 13 villages, which exist in Block-II and Block-V. The groups are oriented about the rights of the local people, Resettlement policy, HR policies of the companies, Welfare/Development work at the end of companies, Corporate Social Responsibility, Environmental hazards etc.

Further make sure the mechanism of coordination, communication and

information sharing it’s formed the “Network” at District level and the representatives from all CSG’s are the part of this Network and this Network is run by villagers own, who exist in Thar Coal Area. Network members are oriented about their job responsibilities, Resettlement Policy, HR Policies, Welfare & Development work at the end of companies, Corporate Social Responsibility and other key issues related to Thar Coal Block-II and Block-V villages.

Sami Foundation is right base organization as well, believes on joint work and takes onboard to Govt. functionaries, public elected representatives and Civil Society representatives. representatives of UC Sonal Beh, UC Seengaro and UC



Jeando Dars, which is the area of Thar Coal Block-II and Block-V. The key agendas of the meeting as the role of LG representatives, Rights of the local people, Resettlement Policy, HR Policies of the companies, Welfare and Development work at the end of Companies where coal or other natural resources may exist.

