



Monthly **E-NEWSLETTER**

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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 180 page long Sindh Water Commission Report, led by a superior judiciary team, launched its fact finding report in February this year.

The Report is based upon a district wise tour of the team to supervise collection of sample water, ensure its laboratory test and analyze if the ingredients meet the standards set by World Health Organization. As expected, none of the districts in Sindh not only failed to meet least of the water purification standard, but it revealed a set of threats that flows across the life of people in the province.

Much of this report has been widely circulated and published in mainstream newspapers; hence, repeating its findings is no good. Just to refresh the memory, the Report claims that 87 percent of the subsoil water in Sindh is saltish and carries far more than average quantity of arsenic in it. That's highly alarming, as a regular consumption of this harmful liquid would mean a gradual but assured death of many, particularly the most vulnerable- the underfed mothers and malnourished children in rural Sindh.

The point in argument are part of findings that specifically relate to quality of water in Umerkot and Tharparkar districts and its overwhelming reliance on rainwater as well as ground water. The bulk of potable water in rural Umerkot comes from subsoil resources or rains. Rainwater is naturally stored in inclines, which makes it an open pool used by humans as well as animals. Though government has done some good in installing reverse osmosis plants in parts of Umerkot and Thar and some of waterborne diseases like diarrhea and typhoid are reduce due to this sort of water treatment- the continuous functioning and availability of RO plants is still a challenge.

Access to safe drinking water is a common human right and binds duty bearers to ensure that people must realize this basic right. It is fundamental to keep children live and make them realize the dreams of their parents.

Local Rights Program

Meetings with community Support Groups and Women Groups.

17 community support group (CSG) meetings were held in target villages with a focused group discussions on



registration and renewal of computerized national identity cards (CNICs). During these meetings, data regarding expired CNICs was also obtained from the participating community members.

A process of sensitization and



information sharing was initiated on registration of new-born babies to re-establish the key importance of computerized registration of adults and children into government records. As many as 328 male as well as female members actively



participated these meetings and

took part of responsibilities of birth registration and CNIC renewal task.

Another objective of these community meetings was to enroll data on Benazir Income Support program (BISP) card holders. Information regarding availability of BISP cards was shared with community volunteers.

Re-opening of girls school at Ratnor

In July this year, Action Aid held a broad community meeting in Ratnor to engage communities to measure the impact of LRP interventions.



On this occasion, community pleaded their constraints to keep the girls school running and asked visiting delegate to facilitate this village for reopening girls' school. It was decided during this meeting that arrangements shall be made to launch a girls' school in Ratnor on auspicious day of August 14-to mark the importance of education as freedom.



In follow up, CSG Ratnor made consistent efforts to re-organize the school and held a number of meetings to assign tasks and pool

resources for the school. On August 14, LRP facilitated girls' school was launched in the village and a ceremony to this end was held to mark re-opening of the closed school. LRP field team along senior manager participated the event.

To involve children into school activities, a quiz competition was organized schools and gifts were presented to winning students-both girls and boys. More than 30 girls who were out of school are now receiving an education in this school.

Joint Social Action for Equal Rights and Opportunities for Minorities of Faith & Belief in Umerkot

Sami Foundation is implementing this project with technical support and financial aid from Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). The project aims to enhance interfaith harmony and coexistence of religions. The project is designed to reach out to communities in four Tehsils of Umerkot.

Follow up and progress review meeting

11 progress review and follow up meetings with CPGs and Taluka Women Groups were held in target



villages. The key objectives of these meetings were to share insight on CPG trainings and facilitate volunteer to prepare plans for

forthcoming activities and awareness sessions. Another aim of these gatherings was to get community input on reports of human as well as women rights in parts of the district Umerkot. As many as 82 male-female volunteers participated these meetings.

Two Days Training Workshop of CPGs.

2 days “Organizational Management, Advocacy & Leadership training” for community peace groups (male and female) was held. As many as 22 male as well as female trainees participated the event.



Advocacy and Lobbying: Provincial Seminar.

In order to understand the background and respond to challenges to minorities in Pakistan in the light of vision and ideas being professed by founding father Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a Provincial level seminar entitled as “Jinnahs’ Vision for Pakistan and our role” was held on August 11, at Indus



Hotel Hyderabad. The objective of the seminar was to emphasize Mr Muhammad Ali Jinnahs’ presidential

speech he delivered on August 11, 1947 to the inaugural session of Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. Retires Chief Justice Sindh, Ms. Majida Rizvi was the chief guest of program.

District Peace Advisory Committee constituted

A District Peace Advisory Committee was constituted to promote interfaith peace and promote minority rights in district Umerkot. The Committees is comprising upon faith leaders, district administration officers and line department heads.



Interfaith dialogue.

Staff organized an interfaith dialogue to promote religious accord within the followers of different religious orientations and to promote peace and protection of minority rights in district Umerkot.

Theater Performance

In order to spread a symbolic message of peace and brotherhood, theatre was performed at Kunri. A good number of government officials and religious leaders keenly observed the play.



School level Peace Discourse

A peace discourse was held at government high school-II Umerkot to discuss youth engagement for peace promotion, interfaith brotherhood and co-existence in the society. As many as 25 young people actively participated the discussion event.



Mass Media Advocacy Campaign for Promotion of Social Cohesion & Pluralism

Lately, FM radios have proven to be far more effective as compared to printed material or visual media like television.

Sami Foundation has also utilized this expanding medium of information and knowledge sharing to re-emphasize its vision for an interfaith society.

To spread the message of religious harmony, community belonging and share cultural capital in target villages, Sami Foundation anchored 4 radio discussion programs in August.

Involving a variety of participation and listeners as well, the programs were moderated for community as a whole and specifically for students too.

Apart from radio discussions, 26 public service messages were also aired. Celebrities were invited to record radio messages so that listeners must attach importance to their opinion.