

## A needle makes change in lives

**Singari**, 40 years old woman, lives at Ratnore village which is located in desolated area of district Umerkot. The inhabitants of the village belong to Hindu Menghwar community. People of the village are deprived and they have no access to basic facilities. "We are poor and ignored community in this area, we have many surrounding villages which are better in terms of facilities than our village. I do not say they have good facilities; in fact they are also deprived. My village is the most vulnerable we have always faced political threats from local nobles who victimize us during elections but we do not fear from them," Singari narrated.



Singari was seemed very active and vocal. She speaks confidently before strange people and she does not feel shyness even among crowd of hundreds. "I have awareness not only about my rights but I know rights of all my village people so I am speaking with you guy," she added.

When Singari was asked how she got awareness and confidence. She describes her whole story in these words. "I live with my six children and my husband is very old, I am performing my duties as head of my family and I care of all family members. I have faced a lot of hurdles in my life. We are still living in extreme poverty. Every year famine breaks out in our village. To some extent my financial condition is little better, because now I am engaged in embroidery profession which is now my source of livelihood. I am earning more than 2000 rupees per month from embroidery. Whatever I got assistance which was provided by one NGO. I still remember, it was year of 2008 when Sami Foundation started project in our village. Sami Foundation team informed us about project and we also shared them our problems. They conducted numerous meeting with us and raised awareness about our rights in our community. They supported me and I received embroidery material including sewing machine. I have also received five days training in Umerkot and in the training I learned more about embroidery skills. I was also linked with market in order to sell embroidery things. In fact, it was first time in my life I visited to Umerkot for the purpose of business. Before I did not think to go bazaar if I went there I used to hide my face."

Singari is giving emphasis on girls' education in her village. Her daughter is studying in the 8<sup>th</sup> class and she wants to educate her daughter. "I learned importance of education when I received training. From that day I have made a mind education is necessary for girls in my village. I also went on exposure visits I have visited to Mithi, Umarkot, Karachi and Hyderabad. Now I want to see Islamabad and want to exhibit my embroidery things there. Also I want earn much more and save money so that we can live happily in the situation of destitution. I am sure one day I will sell my embroidery things to big cities' markets," Singari said happily.