



Event Report on the Visit of Ms. Marvi Memon

(Minister of State and Chairperson of BISP)

At

Sindh Rural Support Organization SRSO Complex Sukkur



Event on Dated: Sep 26th, 2015

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Introduction:

Ms. Marvi Memon was invited by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan (Chairman SRSO) to visit SRSO and formally interact with rural women of districts Shikarpur, Kashmore, Jacobabad, Khairpur and Sukkur. She honored the Chairman's invitation and visited the SRSO Head Office at Sukkur on dated 26-Sep-2015 respectively. SRSO has arranged a vital interactive session for Ms. Marvi Memon with rural women, as she must have proper forum to meet and interact with rural women. In this program/event, women from aforementioned districts have participated. Besides rural women the Director BISP, Regional Managers of SRSO, Officials from various Banks and Journalist have also participated in the event.

Welcome words & initiation of event:

Ms. Rukhsana Riaz Ali, delivered welcome speech in honor of Chief Guest. She welcomed the Chief Guest on behalf of SRSO BoD, as well as Chairman and other rural women who were the participants of the event. She specially thanked Chief Guest, Ms. Marvi Memon, for her time during Eid days to visit SRSO. She added that it seems astonishing that Ms. Marvi Memon is among them during Eid days. Ms. Rukhsana initiated the event formally as per format, as below.



Successful Characters of Rural Women:

Followed by the welcome words, the rural women presented their characters who have successfully and bravely organized their communities and making a clear distinction at the ground level which created a sense of women empowerment throughout northern districts of Sindh.

Rural women presented their cases and mentioned how they become successful in bringing other women together for greater cause, and how they become successful in graduation of their poor masses from poverty and how enabled them for various livelihood options at the household and village level. The detail is given as under:

- **Representative of LSO Network Khushaal, Taluka Lakhi, District Shikarpur:** The representative of LSO network, presented the progress of their LSO network and the way formed their LSO and then its network at the taluka level. She also highlighted the various activities and initiatives which their LSO network have taken to ensure the prosperous living of poor masses at the ground level in district Shikarpur. She also presented the CIF progress which they were given in 2009, now revolving it at their own in whole UC.



- **Mai Heerzadi, village Dipti-Banglow District Shikarpur:** She thanked Ms. Marvi for being with them during Eid days. She also thanked GoS and SRSO for providing them CIF. She said CIF largely enabled their poor women to come out from the worst days of poverty and now have sustainable livelihood sources at the household level. She said before the intervention of SRSO and formation of their COs/VOs/LSOs, women were strictly not allowed to go out for any personal work. Even in emergency situation they were used to require the permissions from their males which now has completely been changed. She added, that now women are fully allowed to go out with any work either personal or other social or for the development of the area. She also mentioned the issues/problems relevantly associated with BISP amount.



- **Representative from UC RBC village Gh Hyder Khoso District Kashmore:** She highlighted that before the formation of their COs/VOs/LSOs, were not aware of their role and strengthens in rural areas. She added that, by organizing in form of their own institutions they realized and became passionate to work for their people to eliminate their poverty. She mentioned the importance and effectiveness of CIF in their areas in context of poverty reduction and women empowerment. She thanked Ms. Marvi Memon for continuation of BISP funds for poor people. She also shared with Ms. Marvi Memon regarding the different hurdles pertaining to the BISP funds while at the time of amount collection from ATMs.

- **LSO Chairperson Hameedabad, District Khairpur:** She shared about CIF and its figures which their different village organizations received from SRSO. She also mentioned the coverage of BISP funds in their UC and highlighted various issues in respect to BISP beneficiaries in their UC.



- **LSO Chairperson Manno Sarki, Thull, and District Jacobabad:** She mentioned their conditions after flood 2010 and described how SRSO supported them to organize themselves. She mentioned about their pre-conditions and post conditions after the formation of their own institutions and the most importantly the CIF which helped poor women to initiate their small livelihoods. She also mentioned about the coverage of BISP funds and its use at the household level. She specifically focused on the ongoing problems which they are facing during the collection of funds at ATM/Banks.



Address by the Chief Guest (Ms. Marvi Memon):

Ms. Marvi Memon, while with smiling face and brightening eyes, expressed her gratitude to the rural women for such a great hospitality. She said that she is much happy to be there with the rural women of different districts of northern Sindh. She appreciated the efforts and passion of women which they have showed to her for various causes. She acknowledged, and also extended her profound gratitude to Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan (Chairman SRSO) for providing her a chance to meet with such brave rural women.



She briefly mentioned about the funding of BISP program under directives of PM Nawaz Sharif. She said PM allocated Rs: 102 billion for BISP program throughout Pakistan. Ms. Marvi, specifically urged on rural women to point out various issues pertaining to the BISP beneficiaries in northern districts of Sindh. She also encouraged women to control the involvement of mid-persons in BISP, since they are fully empowered and can do this more effectively. She clearly said to women that they should strictly stop those persons by informing her via cell number just sending message to her on the matter. She provided her personal number to all women for such purpose.



A part from issues in BISP funds collection, she also emphasis on women to use the amount for the proper nutrition of their innocent children and other expenses of the family. In the meantime, she also encouraged the BISP officials to play their crucial role in respect to stop such poor practices occurring in rural areas for BISP funds. Furthermore, Ms. Marvi Memon, added that PM Nawaz Sharif has also announced an interest free loan (IFL) for poor people which will be equally beneficial for all women besides CIF and BISP interventions. The chairperson BISP also shared about the re-survey of BISP eligible beneficiaries who had been missed or not included in old lists, are now being taken into the data through conducting re-survey of all households.

She relevantly said to the women that for this purpose, she has called an immediate meeting after Eid in which the presence of Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan would be the representation as well as translation of your version and stance on the BISP matters and future way forward. She restated that rural women can be the foundation of change in rural Sindh, if the required technical assistant is made to them for different causes.



At last, she attributed scrupulous regards to the work and philosophy of Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan and paid many thanks to SRSO and its management for organizing/arranging such an exceptional event in her honor. Chairperson BISP also interacted with different BISP beneficiaries and listened to their questions regarding contemporary issues being faced by them. She directed the respective BISP officials to address and resolve those issues on immediate basis. She also paid formal visit to the various portions of SRSO complex and also visited the sartyoon sang craft display room of different handicrafts made by the rural women of northern Sindh.



Conclusive address by CEO SRSO:

Mr. Mohammad Dittal Kalhor, CEO SRSO thanked the Chief Guest for her time to visit SRSO and valuable words. While addressing to the participants, CEO SRSO said that SRSO has mobilized rural women and brought them under the one umbrella of their own institutions and providing them the interest free loans known as community investment fund (CIF). This fund is being managed collectively by these rural women. CIF is being used in multiple sectors particular in livestock and enterprise in order to promote income generating activities at household and village levels.



CEO SRSO, further added that besides the provision of CIF to these rural women, different types of trainings are also given to them to ensure that they are fully enabled to run and manage their day to day affairs of their own institutions under vigilant support and supervisions of LSOs, which is the UC level women-based organizations. In addition to this, CEO SRSO also shared that the Chairman's whole work is based on the philosophy that the poor can bring themselves out of poverty and also can make a clear distinction, if they are organized and their capacities are built through proper support. In the end, CEO SRSO reiterated the words of thanks and concluded the entire event formally.

===== Concluded =====

Press Release:



PML-N govt committed to bring positive change in living standard of women: Marvi Memon

By our correspondent

SUKKUR: Minister of State and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Marvi Memon has said Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was committed to bringing a positive change in the living standard of women, especially rural women and allocation of Rs102 billion for five million families registered under the BISP was meant to achieve this objective.

She was addressing an event organised by the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) at its complex here on Saturday. Marvi Memon expressed her gratitude to the beneficiaries of BISP/SRSO who had travelled far and wide to greet the chairperson of the programme.

She said that she is happy to be there with the rural women of Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Kashmir-Kandhkot and other rural areas of northern Sindh and the purpose of the visit was to understand the problems of the beneficiaries in order to have a clear picture of her own responsibilities towards the poorest of the poor people.

She said the facilities, which were being extended to the BISP beneficiaries other than the quarterly financial support, would soon be reintroduced in an improved form after removing lacunae in their previous versions to ensure that these initiatives be-

come result-oriented and start actually benefiting the women and their families.

Memon said she was taking steps at the higher level to eliminate the role of middle men or agents who try to fleece the BISP beneficiaries adding that she had also received complaints of beneficiaries regarding banks.

Marvi Memon said she chose to spend Eid-ul-Azha with rural women to express solidarity with them and to demonstrate that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government stood with them.

She appreciated the role of SRSO in the northern Sindh and appreciated the staff of SRSO as well for their efforts regarding elimination of poverty through the areas.

During the interaction with organized rural women and beneficiaries, Marvi Memon listened to their problems and directed the BISP officials to resolve them.

She reiterated her stance against such elements and said that for achieving PM's vision of women empowerment, these people will be defeated at all costs. The chairperson BISP also paid a visit to different portions of the SRSO complex including a show room of exquisite handicrafts made by women of rural Sindh

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PML-N govt committed to positive change

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including home textiles, basketry, jewellery, dresses, Dupatas and shawls embellished with traditional embroidery and cut work.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SRSO, Muhammad Dital Kalhoro in his welcome address said his organization is providing loans to poor women as well as rural male and female through Community Investment Fund (CIF) in which women collectively manages the fund, distributing loans for investment in income-generating activities only. This has built the confidence and capabilities of poor rural women, whose concerns are often brushed aside by male tribal elders, he added.

He said the SRSO is also helping poor rural communities through CIF and capacity building of village organizations and community organizations under the banner of Local Support Organization (LSO) at Union Councils (UCs) level.

He said the Chairman of his organization Shoaib Sultan Khan's work is based on the belief that the poor can bring themselves out of poverty if they are organised and their capacity developed adding that his life struggle suggested that the poor were the best judge of what was good for them.

Director BISP Sindh Zulfiqar Abro, Jamal Shoro, representatives of different banks, journalists and hundreds of women were present on the occasion,