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SRSO Newsletter

January- March 2010

Inside

International Women's day	2
International Women's day	4
Feminist Capacity Building	5
Workshop on Micro Health	7
Visit to UCBPRP	8
Delegation Visits of WFP	8
Field Visit of SRSO Directors	8
SRSO Capacity Building	9
My Journey towards development ...	10
TDAP Exhibition	11
Impact of Rising Food Price	12
SAARC Exhibition	13
Exposure Visit	13
BRSP Delegation Visit	14
BRDS Delegation Visit	15
UCBPRP, Shik: & Kandhkot-Kashmore	16
SRSO Effort against comb:	17
The Brook-SRSO Partnership	18
Capacity Building in Communication ...	19
A Little Favour to Community	19
Loan Portfolio Manag: Trai ning	20

Editor's Note

We had the first issue of SRSO Quarterly Newsletter earlier this year and it was a fantastic experience (even if I say so). If you missed it, you missed out a great deal and be at the next one. The title page covers Dr. Sono Khangharani; out of a large numbers, he emerged as the Social Scientist 2010. I have to say well done to our jury, which made the right and perfect choice. The article tells us a bit about him and his journey into Social Services on cover page. Our bumper pack 03rd issue is filled with collection of events coverage, articles and news items. I'd say never miss this issue just in case you accidentally forget your copy, pick up on your way to downstairs @ SRSO Head office. We aim to always be where our readers are. So feast through these pages and don't forget, I love hearing from you guys, so keep the mails coming in.

Syeda Nazia Shah



Dr. Sono Khangharani (CEO-SRSO) awarded with Tamgha-i-Imtiaz in the field of Social Work on the Pakistan Day, 23rd March 2010

In recognition of **Dr. Sono Khangharani's** outstanding and meritorious services in the field of Social Services, the **President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan** has been pleased to confer on Dr. Sono Khangharani **The Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Excellence Award)**

Governor Sindh, Dr. Ishratul Ebad Khan on behalf of President of Pakistan, **Asif Ali Zardari**, bestowed civil awards to 35 personalities in a ceremony held on Tuesday 23rd March 2010, at Governor House in Karachi. The ceremony was also attended by Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Speaker Sindh Assembly Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Advisor for Information Jamil Soomro, Senior Minister for Education and Literacy Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq, Provincial Law Minister Muhammad Ayaz Soomro, senior civil and military officials.

The Pakistan Civil Awards were established on March 19, 1957. The Pakistan Civil Awards are given in recognition to the contribution of civil citizens who rendered meritorious services to the country in their respective fields of activity or performed excellent acts of gallantry. The announcement of civil awards is generally made on the Independence Day August 14 every year and the investiture on the following Pakistan Day.

Dr. Sono Khangharani grew up in Thar in a very poor family, Thar notorious for draughts, for hardships of life of the people living there. The area where people go tens of kilometers to collect drinking water, the area where caste system is on its soaring and the area where basic facilities are hardly available and the area where its' almost impossible to live in this era and the family which could not afford the college education of their child.

Young Sono left his village with lots of problems, queries in his mind and eager for education and struggling vision, completed his Degree in Veterinary Sciences from Tando Jam University and started his career as a faculty member in the same university and soon after 1993 he joined social sector services with the aim to mitigate the social problems in the rural areas of Pakistan.

Dr. Sono makes every effort to reduce hardship of people both in personal capacity and professionally and the general belief is that he has no other objectives of life than to lessen the miseries of the people and combat against discrimination either its gender or class or castand resource, whether he is in SRSO, TRDP, DSN and RSPN.

Dr Sono is a prominent figure in the field of Social Sector Services in Pakistan and is a very good team leader, develops team spirit during the issues in the field work and having twenty-four years of diversified experience plays the role of mentor for all of us, a very much consolidated person and committed to improve the conditions of poor and working for betterment of the destitute people, he is leading two RSPs in Sindh.

Dr Sono has got dreams, objectives and causes and working on those round the seasons

International Women's day Celebrated at Shikarpur

By: Nasrullah Kolachi

To commemorate, globally recognized annual activity of, for and mostly celebrated by the women to make them realize what importance and dignity world owe them altogether with acceptance of their rights. World Women Day [8th March] an event was organized in eve of 20 March at Shikarpur, Hosts of the event Ms. Shahzadi Aliya Shaikh & Ms. Asma Soomro started program by introducing themselves and invited Ms. Fareeda Dayo for recitation of holy verses from Qura'an majeed.

Thereafter host invited Ms. Rukhsana Riaz Ali [organizer of event] for well come speech. She welcomed the guests Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Mr. Rashid Bajwa, Dr. Shireen Narejo, Mr. Mohammad Nazar Memon, Mr. Roomi, team leader, whole teams of different projects of SRSO and the women who were present in the event and had come from different villages of project districts. She highlighted importance of the day in her speech that "we remember and pay tribute to women workers who started their struggle from garments factories in 1907 in US, and also to those women who were jailed in martial law regime for demanding their rights in a democratic country". Moreover she said that we here, remember and pay homage to struggle of Shaheed Bhuttos. We salute struggle of Ms. Farida of Masoo Machhi village that she still is determined to challenge upcoming obstacles in her life. Every woman is in war individually and against poverty and illiteracy but when we get result, our conquest will be collective. We speak of women empowerment, we strive to reduce poverty from each & every household in which women and men live together happily valuing opinions of each other. She said that so called social taboos/barriers can be removed and thus poverty can be reduced. After speech of Ms. Riaz, five kids performed a tableau based on a song portraying dream of equal society for all with no prince and princesses.

Host invited Member BoD SRSO, CEO NRSP Mr. Rashid Bajwa: Mr. Bajwa thanked organizers to invite him on rostrum to address; He said that "women's role in development and for development is very vital, we have learnt that working with women is prolific for, they do not misuse resources or intentionally deviate what they are assigned to do. We visited two (2) Village Organizations VOs today and have got significant results. Process of CO/VO formation remained lucrative for development process because it strengthen that intervention's output is positive and productive as well. Several interventions are being made with, after the household is organized such as CIF, IGG, and vocational trainings to kids of extremely poor, Low cost housing for shelter less, availability of potable/safe drinking water is also ensured under the program. He said COs & VOs are now yours; you have formed now it's on your part to keep it active



and functional in interest of future gains for your villages and settlements".

Thereafter achievement of the UCBPRP towards reduction in poverty was shared with audience that how five women from different communities, villages, talukas & districts got benefit from program got rid from vicious cycle of sufferings and became self sufficient, these were:

Ms. Farida Solangi, VO Masoo Machhi, Shikarpur: Life began hard and ruthless to me after my husband died, in laws abandoned me and my kids, I sat there open in street no body helped me even I had no money to go my parents home. This was what happened to me. My parents knew about the situation I moved there and they gave me 2000 rupees. I used to buy confectionary and sell it in village. After SRSO entered I became member and borrowed 5000 and aggravated my job. My job got better and beneficial, I earn livelihood for my home/family. Now I work with NCHD and get 4000 to run a literacy centre. Male family members have started listening our voice and pay attention to us. I twice traveled in plane to Islamabad on behalf of SRSO endeavors.

Ms. Heerzadi VO Deputy Bungalow, Garhi Yasin: She shared that since long they suffer communal disputes in village that resulted bloodshed too and people have lost their lives. No unity or organization emerged but SRSO materialized it in fact. Today we have COs/VO we are unite and somehow decreased communal aggression against each other after SRSO intervened there. Utilizing CIF, she shared that she sells in village the pre pay phone cards of 200 daily; she runs her home and also save 50 per day to return what she has borrowed from SRSO.

After that, SMART group performed a stage show/drama portraying work of UCBPRP/SRSO that how community gets benefited and express their inclusion in process of development.

Ms. Sabiha Pathan VO Sohrab Pathan, Kashmore Kandh Kot: She shared that SRSO has helped us in a remarkable way that we have found ways to get rid from joblessness and earn livelihood at our homes. CIF has made plenty of our VO



SRSO
Newsletter

January- March 2010

members able to work for themselves and their families by earning.

Ms. Husna Solangi VO Abdoo, Chakk, Shikarpur: She shared that life was miserable for women but SRSO has reduced it. CO member Hajra's husband was drug addict (heroin addict) he never earned a penny on the other he usually used to beat her to give him money for drug. No income there was, her kids used to wander in streets instead of going to school. She seemed fatigued of her life and this she has shared with us several times. But when process of CO/VO formation completed and all we organized we sat there and thank for each other. We passed resolution for CIF and received it. Ms. Hajra also received it, she sells bangles, her life style has changed that her kids go school now she does not see external help for her meals but earns livelihood and maintain her home. I sell clothes at home due to this countless women living in neighbors have got inspiration. This program benefited us in different aspects. Villages and village women have made subjugated since long, there is remarkable potential in rural women to grow and play due role in family's development from schooling to health care. She said I request Government of Sindh to expand the program in all districts of Sindh and extend time period 5 years instead of 3 years that most of the rural population generally and women particularly get benefit from it. After, host invited Member BoD and former CEO SRSO Mr. Mohammad Nazar Memon to address: Mr. Memon said women and men are equal, we as a society lay behind



because we have restricted women only at home, until and unless women's work and contribution would not be brought up we will not make any progress, this program will be started in other RSPs too in Sindh. He said 50% population of Sindh lives in below poverty line.

Thereafter host invited PC Sindh Growth & Rural Revitalization Programme, GoS Dr. Shireen Narejo to address: She said that being a government official I have no experience of delivering speeches for almost 18/19 years I have worked only at office rooms but I am also from this soil so I can well understand pains and dilemmas of women living over here on this land. Thanks that women of every part of world are being remembered on this day. I am inspired from you. We design policies for benefit of women of Sindh. Education is pivotal, try to learn reading and writing.

Development is behind the education and secrets of development lay in education.

After, host invited Chairman SRSO, Chief of RSPN Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan to address, audience warmly welcomed

[“It was my dream to work with women; by working with them you have translated that dream in to fact. No a country has made development without contribution of women. 50% of the population is of women, men are feeble minded that they assume they will develop without harnessing potential of women. They merely think women do not work, when I worked in northern areas, male members told me that women do not work but they alone. To prove this when a survey was conducted, contrary fact appeared that women's working hours were longer compared to those of men. Women got up early in the morning and lay back in late evenings while the male members were doing this quite different. I have four (4) daughters and in my whole life they did not make me feel to have a son. During my work, earlier I usually met men in communities and returned but women from community wrote letters & insisted to work with them too. When I started work with them I found commendable output, I got good results in India too. Over here in UCBPRP women have proved themselves. This is with good approval of Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Government of Sindh, men family members/partners of all of you and SRSO staff, pre and post efforts of Mr. Nazar Memon We have need of staff that may listen, talk and respect you equally. I live in Islamabad, and come here to see my field quarterly. Although we promised with Government of Sindh but I am afraid whether to achieve the promised results. You fulfill the challenge well and I hope objective of this programme will be achieved one day”]

Shoaib Sultan Khan

by standing in honor of Mr. Khan: He appreciated the tableau performance that it sounded good and created impressive phenomenon encouraging for all. I am thankful that you waited for 1 hour.

Host invited in last Team Leader UCBPRP Dr. Ghulam Rasool for winding up comments for event: He said I am thankful for all those who managed their presence in, waited and attended the event, delivered speeches and their success stories. Dr. Shireen Narejo came from Karachi of course we will materialize/implement what she told us. Members BoD of SRSO, Chairman Shoaib Sultan Khan, organizers of event, Gender & Development G&D, audience, SOs and staff thanks to all and the celebrations of the event reached to end.



International Women's day Celebration at Khairpur Mir's

By: Feroz Ahmed Bhutto



Gender and Development formulated a gender policy and implementation plan with defined policy actions as a conscious and focused effort to bringing women in the mainstream development before the resource gaps widen the gender gap at the organizational and programme level.

On 26th February 2010, Women's day and exhibition was celebrated and arranged by Gender section with Collaboration of Region Khairpur management at Open Air Theater Khairpur Mirs in which 700 hundred men and women participated. 22 stalls of Handicrafts and food items were placed. Community hand made products like Patchwork, Date palm Leaf Boxes, embroidery were displayed by the SRSO Enterprise Development Sector, SRSO UCBPRP Khairpur VTEC Center and by COs members from all field unit of Hub Khairpur Mirs. Dr. Sono Khangharani (chief guest) along with AGM Yar Mohammad Bozdar, Nazia Shah, Shazia Shaikh, Sapna Devi, Samina, Shahzadi Alia Ruqia Naz, Abdul Hameed participated and represented from Head Office and Regional Hubs. Gazala Siyal advocate, Sabia Baloch Head Complaint Cell, Ambreen GM NCHD and Ambreen from Lead Pakistan also participated in Women day seminar and exhibition.

The objective of this womens day seminar and exhibition was for women empowerment for poverty reduction.



CEO Chief Guest Dr. Sono Khangharani on his arrival at Women's day seminar and exhibition was welcomed by his team visited the Handicrafts Installs and demonstration work of making Boxes from date palm Leafs and Rillies work arranged by COs members from all field Units of Hub Khairpur and SRSO team and CEO appreciated the work and efforts of community members and his team.

The Rukhsana Riaz PM G&D welcomed all participants for

celebrating women day and program started with recitation of Holy Quran. Shahzadi Alia compared wherein, different Tablos and poems were shared by Females and children highlighting the importance of women education, achievements and professionalism in different fields of life and two hundred great and noble women pictures were demonstrated on multimedia screen and paid tribute to them

Dr. Sono inaugurated Exhibition and visited stalls with media personals. Seminar was started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Community Members. Shahzadi Aliya, stage secretary, put a glance on background of International Women's Day and empowerment of women through education for breaking the chains of inequalities.



Gazala Advocate and PPP member said that 21st century is of women; Islam has given both men and women equal rights every woman must equip her children with ornament of education without gender discrimination.

Dr. Sono Khangharani CEO SRSO said that SRSO put every effort for empowering women for poverty reduction and have designed special programs for women in three districts i.e. Khairpur Mirs, Shikarpur and Kashmore-Kandhkot. He said today this huge carwan and participation of female community members at large is evidence that the dream of SRSO come true. Madam Rukhsana Riaz Ali, Manager GAD and Ms Safia Baloch also presented speeches on the occasion.

Dr. Sono, Abdul Hameed and Ruqia Naz distributed the Award to the Two Best SOs i.e. Asia Mughal, Noreen Siyal, best CRPs and best COs of field units of Khairpur Region.

In last but not least Ruqia Naz Laghari, Regional Program Manager thanked all participants for making program successful and all SRSO female staff showed unity by wearing same colored clothes and raised the slogans by putting hand in hand that women are empowered and can do everything as Mother, Sister, even in any relation.



SRSO
Newsletter

January- March 2010

Feminist Capacity Building Course on Gender, Sustainable Livelihoods, Human Rights and Peace Khatmandu, Nepal

By: Hafeeza Bozdar



Feminist capacity building course on gender, sustainable livelihoods, human rights and peace funded by RSPN held in Nepal, 3 Participants from RSPs namely Hafeeza Bozdar, from SRSO, Gul Afroz from NRSP, Fatima Sethi from SRSP had participated over all 38 women participants from 7 different Countries (Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan) had participated in this course. The course was residential for one month in Kathmandu, Nepal. This course was designed to provide clarity, dialogue and understanding on concepts and issues related to Gender, Justice, Poverty, Sustainable Development, Peace, Democracy and Human Rights. Since 1988, twelve such South Asian courses have been organized through which over 400 women activists and Gender Trainers have improved their capacity and developed a feminist perspective. Many of these women are now in senior positions in different development organizations and are conducting similar Gender Workshops in their own Countries.

These courses have also led to effective networking between participants and their organizations at the South Asia level. This was the XIV course

The main objectives of the course were:

To facilitate an intensive dialogue and sharing of experiences amongst women development practitioners, trainers and planners, media women, women's studies lecturers, activists etc...

To provide an opportunity to increase their understanding, awareness and sensitivity to a range of issues related to gender, peace, development, justice and human rights.

To share information and build a feminist perspective on ongoing processes of liberalization, globalization, militarization, identity politics, conflict transformation and peace building.

To help participants increase their self awareness and self confidence and enhance their analytical, communication and training capacity.

To strengthen networking and co-operation for advocacy and action for sustainable development, gender equality, human rights, peace and holistic health in South Asia and elsewhere.

For creating and strengthening the feeling of togetherness and friendship, the course started with the sangat and shatrii Shakti team offering a flower, a sweet, a candle and a hug to each participant. Each participant was requested to light her candle, introduce herself and with her candle light the candle of the person sitting next to her, who introduce herself. Thus one by one all the candles were lit and participants introduced themselves. This little ceremony helped to create a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The course had also provided opportunities for participants to acquire and develop training skills, through 'learning by doing'. Participants were involved in deciding the daily schedules, planning and coordinating specific sessions, making presentations on issues, preparing learning materials and documenting the sessions. Attempts were made to minimize the formal divisions between 'organizers' and 'participants'. The emphasis was on group discussions and case presentations.

Relevant reading materials was identified and provided and films on specific issues were screened as part of the sessions.



In order to make the process more lively and effective songs, dance, music, plays, posters and films were used throughout the course.

Exposure visits were also organized to local NGOs/women's organizations and encourage participation in public events.



Yoga and other physical exercises was the part of the daily schedule.



The course had cover the following subjects
Introduction to concepts of patriarchy, gender, masculinity, femininity, feminism, women's movement etc
The present neo liberal paradigm of development and its impact on poverty and gender. Alternatives to this paradigm of development.

Violence against women and violence in general.

Religion, secularism and communalism

Militarization, identity politics, conflict transformation and peace

Self-awareness and self-growth

Leadership and confidence building

Mental and emotional health, reproductive health, sexuality and politics of body

Organizational development

Feminist training methodologies

Ms. Kamla Bhasin the advisor of sungat and the main planner of this course she handled most sessions providing conceptual clarity on feminism, patriarchy, masculinity, gender sustainable development and the morning yoga she has been organizing such courses since the early eighties. And the other resource persons were as under

Ms. Abha Bhaiya	India
Ms. Lubna Maryam	Bangladesh
Ms. Deepa Dhanraj	India
Ms. Ambareen Ahmad	Pakistan
Ms. Lata Mani	India
Ms. Rukhmini Rao	India

Major Learning's

I am lucky enough to avail such a big platform of learning. My learning during the course is given as below.

I got many new thoughts and ideas to analyze and link different issues now

This course helped me to think beyond the boxes we try to enclose ourselves. It was a real eye opener

I built my facilitation skills

I am a strong women both mentally and physically after this course

This course has mad me think and reflect on certain practices in our society. Backed by knowledge now I can see through the basis of these practices.

I learned importance of about Yoga, dancing and singing.

I learned to understand the importance of family and married life.

I learned about the negative impact of patriarchy in our society and on individuals.

I learnt to view the world through women's eyes and realized how important my existence is.

I came to know about brave and hardworking women who are struggling for some cause and putting in efforts to bring an enormous change in Society.

I learnt about strength of women, if they unite irrespective of color, class and creed, then they can be the source of bringing revolutionary changes.

I learnt that there is no shame in sharing, laughing and crying with friend and close ones; it only makes you ventilate you feeling and keep you happy and young.

I learned about effective and efficient listening through ears, eyes and heart. And the body coordination with them.

I learnt such women related information which is considered obscene in our society.

I knew about historical and religious places in Nepal.

Reflections on using my learning's in professional work

The course has changed my attitudes towards looking at things at the grassroots level to the policy level

It has given me capacity to analyze things being in the shoes of those who suffer

It has given the resources to conduct trainings and strategies and mechanism to do my work and will change the methodology of workshops in my organization

The perspective that I have gathered here will help me at the time of developing trainings for women.



I am very thankful to Sindh Rural Support Organization SRSO and RSPN, who gave me a bright chance to enhance my skills also very thankful to, my parents who encourage me to participate in this international capacity building course.



Workshop on Micro Health Insurance

By: Feroz Ahmed Bhutto

Provision of social safety net and micro Health insurance from SRSO is a part to save the health of poor community members lies under the 0-18 Poverty Score Card Band to 16198 households at Khairpur District. The service package of Micro Health Insurance with a ceiling of RS.25000/ per person per year includes OPD, day care, diagnostic services, and hospitalization (for more than 24 hours' stay) and maternity care. The package also includes accidental cover (disability compensation) and financial support of Rs.25000/ as Funeral Charges in case of death of a bread winner of the family.



On Monday 08-03-2010, the workshop of Micro Health Insurance (MHI) held at district office Khairpur (UCBPR), the workshop was started with the recitation of holy Quran and Mr. Riaz Ahmed Agro (Team Leader) briefed Staff about micro Health Insurance and Mr. Naimtullah Shaikh (Manager SSS) brainstormed staff about MHI and after that he informed about the MHI form filling pre-requisitions which are,

CNIC

Mark of identification

PSC No.

Names of dependent

Date of issuing receipt

He told that CRPs would be further orientated and process of filling Insurance form would be started from 15th of March 2010 with compulsory documents (CNICs) of all insured would be attached with completed forms for maintaining of Quality and smoothness in process.



HE appreciated Adamjee Insurance Company collaboration with Rural Support Program by introducing product of Micro Health family insurance for the poor Households covering Parents, married couple with children up to 18 years old and

unmarried sisters, covering cost of Micro Health Insurance is Hospitalization, accidental injuries, disability compensation, and compensation in case of accidental death. The limit per insured enjoys Rs.25000/-while effective annual premium is set only Rs.550/600 Besides that, Adamjee Insurance Company kept conditions on the Private panel Hospitals that maintains required standard of cleanness inside the building, with good attitude of Doctors and Para medical Staff to patients, well equipped Hospital with all necessary Scientific Tools, Doctors available around the clock and sound treatment. Such standard Private Hospitals owners have right to apply for addition in the Panel list and any complaint of the insured patient against Doctor ill treatment and staff ignorance will be treated with iron hands and in following panel hospitals names were suggested by staff and will be decided soon after the insurance of insured which are,

Gajani hospital

Sindh medical centre

Agha Khan

Al-Shifa

Wasan Medical centre

Recommendations:

Photocopy of CNICs would be attached with filled forms.

All 0-18 forms would be filled through motivation tools.

The validation of data would be insured 20% by 30%, F.U staff, 30% MER and 20% professional staff.

CRPs would be oriented and further process would be started near soon.

Message should be given for three days to the 0-18 and some forms filled on test basis by staff.



Contributed by:

Najma Solangi

APO - Finance

NEVER STOP TRYING

Never stop trying to achieve your goal

Believe in yourself and be bold

You can do any thing with your strong ambition

No matter to rich or poor family you belong

Do hard effort to reach your destination

Make various attempts without limitations

You can even fulfill your dream,

And moreover can reach the sky without help of any team

There is a quote which you all can apply

"Try and fail"

And

Don't fail to try.



VISIT TO UCBPRP SHIKARPUR BY GOS OFFICIAL & SRSO CHIEF

By: A. Samad Phulpoto

March 20, 2010 at VO Bhirkhan, VO Bakht Jagirani & VTEC Center Dakhan of District Shikarpur was visited by Kaiser Bangali (Advisor CM for P&D), Dr. Sherien Narejo (Project Coordinator SGRRP), Dr. Sono Khangharani (CEO SRSO), Mr. Ghias M. Khan (Coordinator Sindh RSP Consortium) and Abdul Samad Phulpoto (District Manager Shikarpur) to know impacts of Community investment Fund along with Income generating Grant.



During briefing Dr. Sono Khangharani (CEO-SRSO) described the overall progress of UCBPRP and it was decided to physically visit the District Shikarpur, according to plan all members visited the VO Bhirkhan where they met with all VO members to verify the overall interventions, which are being intervened by SRSO. After that they moved to wards VO Bakht Jagerani where they visited the Low Cost House. Besides this they asked lot of questions from VO members regarding the process and decision making to execute the activities. Delegation gave some importance during visit to know the proper usage of Community Investment Fund and Income Generating Grants.

After that they visited the Vocational Training Centre, Dakhan, where District Manger Shikarpur Abdul Samad Phulpoto described the detail of participants and their impacts and they told that after the completion of training SRSO concentrates on the placement and making Business Groups to establish the sales and marketing channels to boost the selling process of business.

DELEGATION VISITS OF WFP OFFICIALS

By: Nisar A. Pathan

During the reporting period **Mr. Faraz Khan Logistic officer along with Miss Uzma** from WFP provincial office visited SRSO Sukkur. They met with SRSO social mobilization staff and visited warehouse for monitor the distribution/transportation, mechanism of stored wheat amongst communities, as per work plan shared with them. SRSO management and social mobilization staff of the project has facilitated the representative of WFP for visiting warehouse. **Mr. Mohammad Kamran** program Assistant from WFP visited the site of 3rd mile stone of wheat distribution at Sukkur district. He has done cross verification of beneficiaries of operational area of project, & shown satisfactory. He also conducted interviews from community persons.



Miss farzana p.o monitoring conducted monitoring of distributed wheat, amongst beneficiaries of 04 UCs of Sukkur. Miss Noor Mahal organized 02 days work shop on base line survey in which field team of NRSP (district Benazeerabad & Jamshoro base on 20 members) stayed with SRSO they visited fields & exercised a questioner based on 56 questions.

FIELD VISIT OF SRSO - DIRECTORS & DELEGATES

By: Ali Bux Mangi

BoD Delegation moved early hours of March 20, 2010 at Madd Khoso U/C Mungrani District Shikarpur in the morning towards Madd Khoso to meet with the all VO & CO women members to discuss regarding the overall interventions of SRSO which are being implemented.



All members met with females and asked the questions about the decisions which are being taken by the Village Organization members to know, either according to designed SOPs implemented or not, more over All visitors conducted a meeting with all VO members and discussed social mobilization process and met with members who already have got CIF, IGG etc; and visited a Low Cost House which was under construction.

After discussion with VO Jhulan members all members walked towards Early Childhood Education Centre and Primary School which was very near. This school was visited by all BoD members where they met with children who are being taught there by the appointed lady teachers. The School was highly decorated with charts, posters and toys.



SRSO
Newsletter

January- March 2010

SRSO CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS

By: Latif Soomro

"Closing Ceremony-Batch II" was scheduled on January 27, 2010 at Government Polytechnical Institute for Women at Sukkur, chaired by Mr. Abdul Wahid Uqaily Managing Director STEVTA, Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Joyo (Director Works & Services) & Muneer Ahmed Shaikh Regional Director STEVTA Sukkur Region, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Samejo, Team Leader PIU-SRSO. Where more than 50 female were display their handmade embroidery which they learn through vocational technical Programme.



Objective of Closing Ceremony:

The prime objective closing ceremony was to distribute the certificate among trained participants and to project the learning of one month in the domain of vocational Programme through display shops. The second objective is to create market linkages between the trained participants who have got intensive skill training.

Visit of Flaunt Crook:

Mr. Abdul Wahid Uqaily visited display corner where he asked various question related with SRSO vocational technical Programme VTP made garments. He asked about the ways and means to create market of these products he was informed that separate female Business Development Officer BDO has been appointed to create the link between the market and readymade work of skilled staff. There was an extra ordinary corner installed over Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Project (UCBPRP) where the literature consists of SRSO monthly and quarterly reports were placed for the sake of knowledge and information for visitors chief guest parsed and highlighted this corner.



Formal inauguration of Programme:

A Programme formally started with the recitation of holly Quran then Mr. Raza Mohsin welcomed to chief guest and all

participants, during briefing Mr. Adnan Mubarak Project Manger IRM shared his view that VTP is the main component of UCBPRP by which we create thousands of skilled human resource for the purpose of supporting their families in order to reduce poverty and improve family's living standard which is the major objective of this project. Further he emphasized over the market oriented opportunities for poor and bellows the poverty line people of district. Besides this he shared the importance of Village Organizations trainings and the role of capacity building in the UCBPRP. Mr. Muneer Ahmed & Muhammad Ali Shaihk shared that Vocational education training institutes impart specialized and practical knowledge to a person and help them to become independent at a particular age; they also appreciate the efforts & coordination of NRSP-Institute of Rural Management & STEVTA.

Mr. Ghulam Rasool Samijo, TL, UCBPRP shared his precious views regarding SRSO ongoing project of poverty reduction. He was of the opinion that poverty is the main curse in our society which has stratified our society in to have and have nots therefore this is the practical war against poverty. He focused over the empowerment of SRSO neglected segment of society "WOMAN". Through this Programme SRSO team is attempting to combat it on priority basis so that real change may come up to change poor masses life pattern.



Mr. Abdul Wahid Uqaily expressing his views and praised our collective efforts which were taken by SRSO in the field of vocational training also shared that these types of "Closing Ceremony" & events are prominent plate forms for the creation of trained participants to display their efforts for market as well. He also appreciated the team efforts in terms of well planned and successful event in this manner in the short possible time. He generalized SRSO Programme, and focused over the plight condition of women in our society. He said that this segment of society and its condition can only be improved when these kind of steps were taken in order to materialize. He strongly emphasized that these programmes should be organized at all Field training centers in this way consciousness about skill development would be increased at large scale.



My Journey towards Development

Ms. Shahida Begum



ED-Mastertrainer-
Reed Work and
Tailoring
Co: Insaf,
Village Mandedero,
District Sukkur

I am Sahida begum; primary passed, 32 years old, a Master Trainer of Moora and Chikh work and Tailoring. I received this training in June 2007, at SRSO Enterprise Development Section Head Office. I had a dream to give higher education to my kids equally (daughters and sons). I was already working on stitching of ladies and children dresses and three years back I was earning 4000- 4500, when I attended tailoring training program, I improved my work a lot and now I am working as a resource person at different areas of SRSO community organizations. Now I am planning to do my own business of Moora and Chikh work as an entrepreneur for my local home based producers. I have a number of contact persons of different buyers and I would become a good entrepreneur. I had a good exposure from the SRSO platform. Last year in June 2009, I was nominated for training of master trainers on Industrial machines (Stitching techniques) and availed this opportunity to attend one month training at India Ahmadanbad by the support of SRSO in collaboration with Saba Pakistan. Now I am working with SRSO as a community resource person of Tailoring training, Reed work-training courses. I am earning about 9,000-10,000 monthly and supporting my family. This is my pray to Allah for flourishing SRSO; which is the voice of poor people.

Ms. Koonj



Vo: Benazeer
Village, Waneko Goth,
District Khairpur

I am 34 years old, expert in Date Leave Hand Fans Weaving. I have been working on date leave products since last 8 years but I never thought that how much this product is precious until and unless I have participated in an International Exhibition with the Support of SRSO Enterprise Development Section. It was very challenging for me to avail this opportunity because of my family barriers, nobody was allowing me to go outside the village for four/five days but I convinced my family through my CO members and SRSO, focal person Ms. Shamsa (SO-FU-Khairpur) finally my family members allowed me and I attended Expo international Exhibition in feb: 2010, for four days with the support of SRSO ED Section team. It was a new world for me; I was feeling very shy to explain my product's introduction in front of customers and very much hesitating while even introducing myself. I learnt a healthy experience after attending that forum and SRSO ED team was continuously guiding me and encouraging my product and expertise. I am an illiterate lady, I have three kids my husband left me (Divorced) four years back and I am the only person to support my family economically. I had no such experience to visit Karachi and meet with the foreigners. Now I am very much confident to define my products in a better way. Now I had a number of contacts to market my product locally and nationally. I am visiting and collecting the date leave variety of products from other villages of nearby area for marketing their products. I had learnt three main things from this exposure that nominal price, Quality of work and strong communication are very important.

Ms. Marvee



CO: Aagha Ali Jatoi
Village Agha Ali Jatoi,
District Khairpur

I am 35 years old, a Master Trainer in Hand Embroidery. I have attended number of product development workshops, exhibitions and market exposures with the support of ED Section. Four years back, my artisans group and I myself had left to do hand embroidery work but after getting awareness from SRSO, we had turned back to our precious embroidery work that is our identity now. I am working as a designer for my group, guiding them in variety of products, color schemes and sampling. Now our work is being marketing at local, national and international level. We are frequently participating in exhibitions and mina bazaars/ Sunday bazaars at our own level.

Our male members are supporting us a lot. We are very much conscious about our usage of raw material and wedges. Our woman artisans are now regularly working daily 5/6 hours on hand embroidery work and monthly each lady is earning about 4000-5000 rupees and we are happy. Our plan is to open a handicrafts shop at the location of Sukkur city, as we can promote and market our precious skills.



Trade Development Authority of Pakistan Exhibition at EXPO Karachi (TDAP)

By: Mahtab Tariq Pirzada

Expo Pakistan 2010 was organized by TDAP at Karachi from 26th to 28th February 2010. TDAP also invited SRSO for the participation in this memorable event. With close collaboration of AHAN (Aik Hunar Aik Nagar). Epics 2010 was given name for this exhibition which stand for Exhibition for the promotion of indigenous crafts of Sindh supported by Govt. of Sindh, Planning and Development dept, public



private partnership unit and SITCO (Sindh Indigenous and Traditional Crafts Company implemented by AHAN (Aik Hunar Aik Nagar) Pakistan.

SRSO ED sector with female artisans from both regions participated actively in this event all the six huge halls of expo Karachi were setup with different trades of Pakistan. Hall number six was designed especially to the Sindh cultural crafts where more than ninety stalls were decorated with traditional crafts of Sindh. (Sindhi Topi Rillies, Embroidery, bangles of Sindh, lacquer art, jhandi, Ajrak, khes, terracotta (clay work), wheat straw work, farasi, date leaves Blue pottery, bandhinee, thari carpets, wood carving etc.)

On inaugural day speaker National Assembly Dr. Fahimada Mirza visited EXPO Centre and Ajrak was presented by ED SRSO team at stall. She also visited demonstration area and appreciated SRSO artisan's work.

SRSO was given two stalls from AHAN and one demonstration area from TDAP. One stall was set up with mix craft upgraded products made by our community members and on the second stall date palm products and wheat stick products were on display. In the demonstration area our artisans Shahida begum from Sukkur district, Koonj and Naziran from Khairpur showed their skills of date palm craft with innovation continuously for three days to the visitors and were appreciated. Shahida begums exclusive interview was on aired by Express news channel in which she shared the success story of herself with SRSO support



Foreign delegates took great interest while visiting different stalls. Especially wheat and date palm leaf work at SRSO stall they also inquire about SRSO and the mission, brochures were given to them with contact numbers for further information. Fashion show was organized for first two days in which famous designers showed Sindhi culture with traditional touch of embroidery, cut work rallie designs in their outfits and accessories.

Second day was especially for local trade visitor and foreign guests. From local traders ED sector Artisans got order for embroidery work and many local traders showed their interest in SRSO leaded products.

Third day was open for general visitors and award ceremony, best participants in different categories got award from Mukhdoom Amin Fahim and Federal minister Mr. Shaukat Tareen, SRSO won the award of "Best Performance PAR Excellence Award" for best innovation and demonstration. During three day event our artisans Shahida begum, Nazeran and Koonj, showed their skills in date palm products with upgrading Ajrak material on basket, Jainamaz, mooras etc.

On 1st march all the artisans were invited by SITCO (Sindh Indigenous and Traditional Crafts Company) at Mohatta palace for open forum and Mr. Hameed Akhund with his board members warm welcomed to Artisans.

Sindh Govt. has set up the SITCO, to initiate policies and develop capacity building for assistance to individuals and civil society organization involved in indigenous crafts and skills that promote cottage industry and self employment of women folk, youth, craft person and support by adopting present day market strategies and technology creating and diversifying suitable income opportunities. It will encourage and build capacity of rural craftsmen to form clusters, cooperatives and outlets to encourage self reliance and build confidence. This project is proposed to be subsequently transferred to the stake holders. Set up of display and sales centers are planned at Karachi Hyderabad and Sukkur.



Artisans were asked to discuss and speak about their problems and difficulties which they are facing for their valued crafts. In this open forum artisans shared their problems and Mr. Akhund promised to visit different areas of Sindh with his team and find out the ways to promote our traditional cultural craft. At the end of the day, Certificate of participation was given to the artisans of EPICS 2010 by Mr. Shakeel Abro of AHAN. Exhibition and exposure trip plays major role for the promotion of our craft artisans. It gives opportunity to our community members to explore new ideas and for the improvement of quality product, packaging, promotion.



Impact of Rising Food Prices on Food Insecure and Vulnerable Households

By: Nisar A. Pathan

SRSO has identified 2000 deserving farming households in 4 Union Councils of district Sukkur. The details of the identified beneficiaries, along with their CNIC numbers have been shared with WFP. As per the Field Level Agreement (FLA), WFP will provide 800 Metric Tones of Wheat as a Food for Work incentive to the beneficiaries of this project. SRSO will be responsible for the distribution of Wheat to beneficiaries for the next four months.



As per Field Level Agreement (FLA) signed between SRSO and WFP there is written, the third mile stone of wheat distribution will be initiated on February 2010, during the month of January no distribution activity was carried out. The details of the four Union Councils and number of beneficiaries are shown in table below

S#	District	Talukas	UC	Beneficiaries
1	Sukkur	Rohri	Sangrar	545
2			Dhandi	286
3		Pano Akil	Dadlo	627
4			Nindapur	542
Sub Total				2000

Through the Poverty Score Card Survey, SRSO initially identified deserving farmer households in District Sukkur. Out of these identified beneficiaries 2,000 farmers were selected for receiving wheat Seeds and Fertilizer distribution from FAO, keeping in view the selection criteria.

There is a great collaboration has observed between the community and SRSO field staff concerning the implementation strategy of the WFP assistance program, SRSO's social mobilization staff has been making regular and random field visits for Monitoring purposes in all four Union Councils of Sukkur.



The two mile stones of wheat distribution were completed successfully during the month of November and December 2009, 400 MT of Wheat were distributed to all 2000 beneficiaries in District Sukkur 200 MT of wheat in each month. As per the FLA signed between WFP and SRSO the 3rd cycle of distribution has been carried out by first week of February 2010 accordingly, 200 MT of wheat distributed amongst 2000 selected beneficiaries of district Sukkur. The Distribution plan has been submitted to WFP provincial office for the month of March 2010.

Story worth Telling (N.B)

As a result of this intervention, it has been observed that the selected farmers are satisfied with the safety net provided to them by WFP and are taking increased interest in the agricultural activities.

SRSO has started working under FAO food facility project from 25th of August 2009, in 8 union councils of two districts of Sindh province Sukkur and Khairpur. UC Nindapur is from one of these union councils and village Soomar Khan Gopang was targeted settlement. As per project implementation plan, SRSO social mobilization staff started the identification survey for identifying potential beneficiaries from selected UCs. They have worked with spirit, enthusiasm and devotion of work and they have got succession to find out potential beneficiaries. Mst. Kazbano is on of them; we have interviewed her and got the information about her life. Mst: Kazbano telling something about herself.



"I was with no money for purchasing Agricultural inputs & grain for feeding, no any middle man was ready to give me credit. I was suffering from great poverty & suspension. All the sudden SRSO people came, and got formal documents. Few days later SRSO representatives gave me DAP, UREA, Wheat seed, which I sown in my land. Now it is cultivated, people are surprised.

After one month a team again came to my village and issued a Ration Card then took my thumb impression on it and gave me six bags of wheat during the last three months as a food for work activity for my household consumption. From the money which I have saved and bought on goat, I love to my got & get milk from him. Now I am happy and confident that, I shall get rid from poverty. Neighbors and villagers are surprised that how God made my support. I shall save my seed for next cropping season and shall store grain in silos for annual consumption of my house. I am greatly affected from these joint efforts which have been carried out by FAO, WFP and SRSO."



SRSO
Newsletter

January- March 2010

One day exhibition was organized by SAARC Women Association at Marriot Hotel on 7th of March 2010. Nearly ninety stall were setup by women entrepreneur and Enterprise Developments Sector.

SRSO consultant with two artisans Mahnaz from Pir Bux Solongi who is patchwork expert and Shahida Begum. Their selection was based on their expertise on patch work because their community production side is very strong and through training they can produce quality products. they also got response on patch work rilli. Products of different areas of SRSO were displayed costumer inquire about her village also.



SRSO date leave and wheat stick products were in demand and got good response. SRSO entrepreneur Mrs. Shakira who is running her business in wedding plans ordered date leave fine quality fans. Other than this cutwork kurti and embroiled key chains also got good response. this exhibition lasted for 9 hours overall this exhibition was of great importance as SAARC countries women association is doing a great job to bring all the countries culture at one platform.



While coming back from Karachi on 7th of March visited Bhatt Shah and Hala Handicraft Centres and showed products which were left after the SAARC exhibition to the business men, Mr. Qazi of Qazi handicraft. Mahnaz also showed her rallies and got order for ten single bed rillies with fifty percent advance and Mr. Qazi confirmed for further orders if they send the products with quality check.



This report highlighted what transpired during an experiential learning and practical exposure which was carried out on the February 20th, 2010 in Bahawalpur-Punjab. It was attended by 12 participants including 5 man and 7 women. Participants were exposed to practical work which is being carried out by National Rural Support Programme NRSP-Bahawalpur region. In the interaction Mr. Asif from NRSP shared his experience, lessons and challenges regarding to hand loom weaving industry. Further more Ms.Saima (Textile arts and designing) shared the color matching scheme for market able products. Opening remarks were given by Mr. Asif. He was so happy about the exposure and the organization by Sindh Rural Support Programme-Institute of Rural Management. He thanked to all participants for sparing their time for the exposure. After welcome by RPM Mr. Zadi all participants introduce themselves, then Mr. Zadi gave a small background of current enterprise initiative taken by NRSP at Bahawalpur. SRSO-IRM staff viewed that it is need to work on mutually basis because it is great potential of hand made products in different area of Sindh, particularly rilli making, arc work, Sindhi Topi making, block printing (Ajrak & bed sheets) and applic work.



Visit of Rohi Handloom station:

As per plan, Rohi loom station visited where participant understand the working approach of station. All participants encouraged to see the well and organized system and working environment of station. And understand the complete cycle from warping to layout center. At the end we can understand the successful philosophy of system that is called market need approach, which is being followed at Rohi hand loom station. At The end Mr. Asif thanked to all participants in order to visit the efforts of NRSP at Bahawalpur region Punjab.

The whole exposure trip was pleasure for the artisans with confident hopeful steps at their homes to fight with poverty with their golden hands.



The Union Council Based Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) in 19 UCs of district Khairpur commenced on 1st July 2009 and would be completed in 36 months. The prime objective of this programme is to improve the living standard of communities in the targeted areas, while the specific objective is to build up the capacity of the underserved population, based upon the social mobilization approach, supplemented by a number of interventions. In addition to social mobilization, the programme will address the social indicators relating to health, environment and physical infrastructure. Health insurance cover for the poor (0-18) would be provided as a social safety-net, as well as it will also prepare the communities to make use of microfinance for their livelihoods and creation of assets, which are the main reasons behind poverty in rural areas.



On Thursday-04- Feb:2010 BRSP delegation from District Kharan visited UCBPRP District Khairpur, there were 23 Pax from 12 COs in the BRSP delegation including One Admin & Finance professional, Mr. Riaz ahmed Agro presented UCBPRP program on Multimedia in which he briefed the program and its area, he shared the structure of community organizations federated in VDOs later. Community Investment Fund (CIF), Insurance safety shield to community and Vocational skills training for HHs falling in 0-18 band were the main components which developed their interests.

Delegation from BRSP: is the program focused on females only? Why not for males? Is training given free of cost and pick and drop facility to the women? Will taken back after year?, Mr. Riaz Ahmed Agro answered all the queries that this program is focused on females because as it is seen in females are more conscious and sensitive about the program and are remain at home therefore easily contacted and prime objective of program is to empower the females and sustainability of the program is only with the participation of females. he told that training is given free of cost including pick, drop and refreshment facility is given to the trainees and Community Investment Fund (CIF) it is revolving fund for community and it is grant for villages not for person and with the passage of time the pool of CIF will be increased this program is designed to strengthen the local institutions at community/village level and build their own sustainable financial institutions that effectively reach the underserved poor. It is also expected that the initiative will create opportunities for the poorest clients, without collateral; to access small loans at lower cost and with fewer

delinquencies and they will issue the amount themselves next year according to needs.

After that left for UC Shadi Shaheed in village Ali Sher @ Kashmir, the meeting of VDO was arranged at village Ali Sher @ Kashmir in home and all VDO members were present in the meeting, they welcomed the BRSP delegation with the Islamic greetings and meeting was started with the recitation of holy Quran and president and Manager of VDO briefed delegation about the SRSO program that how it was started at their village and formed two COs and VDO and after that granted the Community Investment Fund (CIF) i.e. amount of 4,500,00 thousands in 45 borrowers and after the BRSP delegation asked the questions from the community

Delegation from BRSP: asked the many questions from the VDO members that, are you benefited from this program? What change took place in your life with SRSO program? Who is responsible for maintaining of record? What benefit you got with the trainings? Community answered the delegation that we have benefited with this program because before we had livestock of land lords therefore were not benefited from that live stock and now we have our own livestock which we had purchased with CIF and before we could not know about the unity and saving and for our future, when SRSO came we know all aspects of life and sustainable growth and concept of development at HH level and at village level and after year we will save more money and with the passage of time will get developed, after getting training, now our females are sewing the clothes of their villagers and earning the amount and supporting the family.



And then delegation visited vocational Centre of Ranipur Taluka Sobhoderi where 2nd batch event of training was going on, in which there are 80 pax in four traits i.e. Tailoring 40 pax, Hand Embroidery 20 pax, Machines Embroidery 20 Pax and 10 pax in beautician training and all BRSP delegation warm welcomed by Ranipur Team and field Unit incharge Ranipur introduced Vocational Centre and about the pax and its relation with COs and know how about the selection procedure followed by in selection of trainees and some members Asked from Unit Incharge about the Material that either it is given by you or they purchase themselves? And Unit Incharge replied that it is given by SRSO and this training is totally free of Cost in which pick and drop facility and refreshment expense are burned by SRSO and delegation appreciated the program and commented much positive to enhance the interest of team of SRSO to serve the community by best efforts.



One day visit on 1st Apr-2010 of BRDS delegation from District Badin at UCBPRP District Khairpur, there were 52 Pax out of them 25 male and remaining were females from different Community in the Birds delegation. Mrs. Ruqia Naz Lighari given brief introduction of UCBPRP and Feroz Bhutto MER given presentation of UCBPRP program on Multimedia in which he briefed whole the delegation of BRSP in detail about the program and its area, he Shared the knowledge of hierarchy followed in UCBPRP for COs and VOs formation and shared the know-how about the Community Investment Fund (CIF), Insurance safety shield to community (0-18) and Vocational training.



Delegation asked that program is focused on females only? Why not for males? Is training given free of cost pick and drop facility to the women? Will CIF recover after year?, Feroz Ahmed answered all the queries that this program is focused on females because as it is seen in females are more conscious and sensitive about the program and are remain at home therefore easily contacted, prime objective of program is to empower the females and sustained the program only with the participation of females. He told that training is given free of cost including pick, drop and refreshment facility given to the trainees and Community Investment Fund (CIF) it is revolving fund for community and it is grant for villages not for person and with the passage of time the pool of CIF will be increased this program is designed to strengthen the local institutions at community/village level and building their own sustainable financial institutions that effectively reach the underserved poor. It is also expected that the initiative will created opportunities for the poorest clients, without collateral; to access small loans at lower cost and with fewer delinquencies and they will issue the amount themselves next year according the needs.



After that Birds delegation visited vocational Centre of Khairpur where training was going which 80 pax in four traits i.e. Tailoring 40 pax, Hand Embroidery 20 pax, Machines Embroidery 20 Pax training and all Birds delegation welcomed with by Khairpur VTEC Team Ranipur given brief introduction of Vocational Centre and about the trainees and its relation with COs and given know how about the selection procedure followed in selection of trainees and some members Asked from Unit Incharge about the raw Material either it is given by you or they purchase themselves? And Unit Incharge replied that it is given by SRSO and this training is totally free of Cost in which pick and drop facility and refreshment expense are burned by SRSO and Birds Delegation appreciated the program.

After that we left for UC Shadi Shaheed in Village Ali Sher @ Kashmir, the meeting of VDO was arranged at village Ali Sher @ Kashmir home and all VO members were present in the meeting and welcomed the Birds delegation with the Islamic greetings and meeting was started with the recitation of holy Quran and president and Manager of VO briefed delegation about the SRSO program that how it was started at their village and formed two COs and VO and after that given the Community Investment Fund (CIF) i.e. amount of 4,500,00 thousands in 45 borrowers and after the BRSP delegation asked the questions from the community and all queries were satisfied by CO members.

At last but not the least get attended routine meeting of VO Gaber Maitlo where all VO members welcomed BIRDS delegation from Badin and meeting was started with the recitation of holy Quran president and manager of VO briefed delegation about their achievement and how they get benefited from SRSO and how their life standard paradigm shifted after CIF to our 30 poor borrowers and given training.



UNION COUNCIL BASED POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMME

By: Ali Bux Mangi

The Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) is a pioneering and challenging initiative of the Government of Sindh, for reducing poverty by tapping into the potential of the people. The UCBPRP is being implemented by Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and was initiated on February 1, 2009 in two districts:



Shikarpur and Kandhkot-Kashmore. The UCBPRP aims at improving the quality of life of the rural communities, especially that of the poorest of the poor, through the conceptual package of social mobilization. This entails organizing rural communities into "organizations of the poor" at the community, village and union council level.

Social mobilization is the first step in eradicating some of the barriers that the poorest face. SRSO has used the Poverty Score Card which has the ability to categorize entire Union Councils into different poverty bands (Bands are: 0-11 Extremely Poor, 12-18 Chronically Poor, 19-23 Transitory Poor, 24-100 Non Poor) making it easier to distinguish products for each band. Both districts are being organized at Para/Mohalla level into Community Organizations (COs) and at village level into Village Organizations (VOs). By having their own organizations, the communities will be able to present themselves in a unified manner and will have the ability to voice their development concerns to the relevant authorities. During the month of March 9557 house holds organized into 534 community organizations and 161 village organizations and as of March, 10 a total 170,392 house holds had been organized into 9,772 community organizations and 3088 village organizations. There are 4,305 households who do not have the capacity to pay back even interest free loan/credit, but have the potential to perform and the desire to come out of the poverty trap. The Income Generating Grant (IGG) has been designed for above mentioned number households. As of March, 2010 a total of Rs.21.615 millions had been disbursed among 2,430 community organizations as a grant which enables the extremely poor and chronically poor community members to get rid of poverty. The CIF will be managed by the village women themselves, as they will be the ones who decide which poor women should receive a loan and at what flexible terms. As of March, 2010, a total of Rs.246.046 millions had been disbursed among 26,600 village organizations.

The UCBPRP also includes a component whereby youth from extremely poor and chronically poor households will be identified and provided scholarships for receiving Vocational Trainings. During the month of March 698 participants given training and as of March, 2010 a total of 7,995 participants had been trained in different trades. In this project, 50% of the villages having VO will be given one scheme of Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI), which may include sanitation and drinking water.

As of March, 2010, a total of 663 CPIs had been initiated. Shelter support is being provided in terms of Low Cost Houses to the extremely poorest households who require shelter. As of March, 2010 a total of 2,064 LCHS had been initiated and 56 have been completed as village development plan with the cost of Rs.44.447 millions. To enhance the productivity of poor farmers in Agriculture and Livestock the trainings are being given by UCBPRP because water use efficiencies are quite low in many of large irrigation systems. The concept of "More Crop per Drop" is a guiding concept through Drip Water Management which is being used in desert areas but UCBPRP also has started Drip Water System for better irrigation to enhance the productivity in Agriculture sector for the poor communities. Rural women are involved in both Agriculture and Livestock rearing activities, in order to efficiently and effectively increase the production from the Natural Resources and to build the skills in rural communities particularly poorest vulnerable women. As of March, 2010 a total of 244 participants had been trained.

UCBPRP also has started an education project in both the districts and this project will be implemented in 300 schools of selected UCs. As of March, 2010, 31 female teachers had been appointed and 17 school development plans had been initiated and 4 second shift Girls Primary School had been activated.

Another initiative of UCBPRP, which is Traditional Birth Attendant Training (TBA), is concerned with poor women's health care and knowledge regarding the pregnancy and antenatal care. Under this intervention or activity 4,200 TBAs, are to be trained through 10 days of extensive training. As of March, 2010, total 1,798 poor women/participants had been trained under this activity. Poor spent their substantial income on the treatment of different ailments every month despite of availability of government's free health care facilities in almost at every administrative set up.

Provide micro health insurance is to provide a social safety net to 56,541 households who lie in the 0-18 poverty band. The service package with a ceiling of RS.25000/ per person per year includes OPD, day care, diagnostic services, and hospitalization (for more than 24 hours' stay) and maternity care. The package also includes accidental cover (disability compensation) and financial support of a sum of Rs.25000/ as Funeral Charges in case of death of a bread winner of the family. As of March, 2010, 43,000 households had been insured through Adamjee Insurance in both districts.



SRSO
Newsletter

January- March 2010

SRSO - EFFORT AGAINST COMBATING FOOD RAISING PRICES

By: Nisar A. Pathan

The recent rise in food prices significantly worsened the food security situation in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. About 17 million people joined the food insecure category (already amounting to 60 million people) during the food crisis, bringing the total to about half of the population. Targeted investments in agriculture are therefore an urgent and time critical element of any attempt to enhance production and combat rising food prices.

As a specific response to the soaring food prices, the Government of Pakistan has allocated budgets for cash transfer programmes that aim to target 5.2 million food insecure households. However, capacities and resources are uneven among the provinces and up to 1.8 million households have remained without assistance. Moreover, the national response capacity is weakest in the provinces that were identified by a United Nations assessment as most affected by the food crisis.

The overall project aims at enabling at least 166 710 vulnerable households (1 167 000 beneficiaries) to produce adequate grain for their household consumption in the food-deficient areas of North Western Frontier, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan provinces.

Provision of quality seed and fertilizer to farmers is one of the most important factors to combat increasing food prices and ultimately resulting in increased staple food availability.

With focus on small farmers who lack access to critical inputs in highly food vulnerable areas and timely distribution of inputs to the identified beneficiaries as per defined criteria has a very positive impact on the lives of benefited households.

The most immediate impact observed by the field teams, just after the distribution was the content showed by the beneficiaries especially those who used to take credit for inputs at the time of sowing. The benefited farmers have reduced stress and mark up at household level, and increase production per acre by receiving inputs on time. The proper and timely used of UREA, DAP and management practices.

Informal discussions with the beneficiaries also revealed their intentions to utilize the saved amount in procuring additional agriculture inputs and any other productive use like livestock, land levelling and additional land for cultivation procurement. Which otherwise would have not been possible. This productive investment will ultimately result in better livelihood making them self sufficient vulnerable to continuously increasing food prices.

Provision of distribution of inputs during the reporting period, which resulted in the success of distribution activity, was close coordination with various stakeholders.



The stakeholder included District Authorities, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Grass roots level local institutions i.e. COs, VO's etc.



Strong coordination with EDOs Agriculture, District Officers Agriculture, Technical Experts and Area Coordination Office of FAO resulted in proper identification, timely distribution and, effective and efficient implementation of the planned activities. A total number of 5,980 & 5,538 farmers were initially identified by the project team in eight Union Councils of District Sukkur and Khairpur respectively. After necessary verification and screening a total of 4,270 beneficiaries (2248 Sukkur & 2022 Khairpur) were selected for final distribution for Package-I i.e. Wheat Seed, DAP & Urea. For Package II i.e. vegetable seed, SRSO received seed for 4,274 beneficiaries. As for Package-III i.e. Lentil Seed, the organization received inputs for 4,276 beneficiaries as per following details

	Unit	Quantity Received	
		Sukkur	Khairpur
Package-I			
Wheat Seed	50 Kg Bag	2,150	2,120
DAP	50 Kg Bag	2,150	2,120
Urea	50 Kg Bag	2,150	2,120
Package-II			
Vegetable Seed (Tomato, Turnip, Spinach, Pea)	(6 gm, 200 gm, 200gm, 300gm sachets)	2,137	2,137
Package-III			
Lentil	4 Kg Bag	2,138	2,138

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS:

All the activities were carried out effectively as per agreed plan of action. SRSO identified the storage facility and assured safe storage of inputs provided by FAO. Timely verification of proposed villages in accordance with the project's criteria and surveys resulted in transparent selection of beneficiaries. The in-depth planning for distribution in coordination with FAO team resulted in smooth on time distribution of agriculture inputs. In addition the organization remained continuously involved in mobilization of communities to form local level organizations and associations, coordination with District Line Departments and facilitate FAO team in training of beneficiaries.



THE BROOK - SRSO PARTNERSHIP

By: Ahmed Khan Soomro

Livestock and equine animals are an important part of farmers' life that substantially contributes to the rural economy. Whilst cows, buffalos, sheep & goats are important sources of income and nutrition, equines also significantly contribute to rural, semi urban and urban household economy. In addition, equines play a sizeable role in communication and transportation of farm products and inputs especially in remote areas where road infrastructure facilities are very poor and transportation of goods and passengers in urban/semi urban areas.



Pakistan, in spite of being one of the top five countries of the world with large animal population, lag behind in livestock productivity due to poor infrastructure facilities and lack of awareness about basic animal management practices and preventive measures against common diseases. The situation in the case of working equines is even more depressing as compared to livestock and other domestic animals. Working equine animals are the most deprived and are at the receiving end in the household priorities. Neither are there any specialized staff and skills at the government veterinary institutions for the treatment of equines nor is it a priority area for planners & policy makers to respond desirably to addressing the health and welfare needs of equines.



PMSIL concentrates on the improvement of extension services and help bridging the gap between the government veterinary institutions and farming communities for increase in livestock productivity. However, equines animals are still deprived of veterinary facilities due to lack of relevant technical expertise, medicine, instruments & equipments in Sukkur District. This gap can be filled by Brooke who has shown willingness to maximize its outreach to the remote areas of the province by expanding partnership with SRSO. The partnership will be very helpful to reach marginalized equine animal populated areas for provision of veterinary treatment services & awareness creation (through awareness raising sessions/camps, deworming campaigns, vaccinations) and capacity building of PMSIL staff and communities in basic equine animal management practices and treatment on a sustainable basis. This proposal is designed in response to the agreement signed between Brooke and SRSO for capacity building of PMSIL staff and equine owning communities for the improvement of working equines health and welfare.



This partnership can be further strengthened in the coming years based on experiences of mutual working partnership. This partnership will be for an initial period of 12 months (April 2010 to April 2011) and can be extended through mutual consensus based on the outputs achieved, need-felt and lessons learnt after a year.



SRSO even though active with livestock initiatives, lack experience and expertise with regard to equine management, preventative care and treatment, however expansion of partnership with the Brooke would significantly add value to the communities owning working equine animals and their health and welfare in Sukkur district also.



SRSO
Newsletter

January- March 2010

Capacity Building in Communication and Presentation Skills Training

By: Mir Keerio

A Little Favour To Community with Linkages

By: Rustam Soomro

To build the capacity of SRSO professional staff, a training on Effective Communication and Presentation Skills was organized by HRD. The main Objective of training was to enable participants for effective communication and to improve their presentation skills. Four days Training started from 09-03-2010 to 12-03-2010 at Step Inn Guest House Sukkur.



Ms Hafeeza Bozdar and Mir Keerio were the facilitators and Mr. Sohail Mohammad Ali was the Resource person for this capacity building event. Participatory training methodology was adopted by conduction interactive sessions through brainstorming, lecture, group work role play and video clips.

On first day, Mr. Sohail Mohammad Ali took sessions on Communication and its process, types of communication and Johari windows, which consists at four areas open area, Blind area, Hidden area and unknown area. He threw light over each area and smoothly linked with communication process. On Second day after review, session at Interpersonal communication, three stages of ego Child ego, parental ego and Adult ego were discussed. Transactional analysis (psychotherapy) was also studied deeply through which can improve the communication skills; there are three rules of communication in TA. Participants were thoroughly imparted the topics by coating so many examples related with TA and ego stages. Session on Conflict resolution, its types i.e Intra personal, Interpersonal, inter-group, inter organization and functional conflict were also in the course.

Third day focused on basic guidelines for Improving Presentation Skills. Participants were asked to demonstrate presentations on different topics assigned by the resource person. The feedback was quite satisfactory followed by feedback and observations given to groups by the resource person and participants.



From Head Office, Nazia Shah, Manager M&E visited the training in last two days continuously. Ms Rukhsana Riaz Ali PM GAD participated as a Chief Guest and participants given feedback of training they said that they have got conceptual clarity from this training and now they will improve the gaps which they have identified during their communication process. Participants also suggested that they need report writing skills. Finally participants evaluated the whole training as well as Resource Person. In last certificates were distributed amongst the participants by Ms. Rukhsana Riaz Ali and Hafeeza Bozdar.

There are so many organizations engaged for social development activities in this Country all these play in their specified fields by using their specialized skills.

SRSO is one of the largest organizations for community development in Sindh employing its skills more than a dozen of fields like SM, PITD, Agriculture, Livestock, Heath, RCED, HRD, ED etc.



SRSO committed staff tries their level best to utilize maximum available recourse, by adopting out of box approach, by keeping in view the needs of community focus on linkages with other specified organizations. That's why, district Shahdadkot staff realized need of CNIC in community members and arranged NADRA mobile vans at village level for more than 10 villages with special arrangement of Gazeted officer at the spot with pick & drop facility to nearest villages. In result 208 community members benefited through technical and logistic support with NADRA and SRSO mutual cooperation.



After completion of first Phase (Data entry) these members got their tokens for receiving their CNICs this whole process was ended without any charges to community members. When news reporters enquired about this process and expenditure over this activity by Community members, these community members happily replied good words for SRSO and NADRA witch certainly helped to increase the moral of Both Organizations.



Loan portfolio Management Training

By: Hafeeza Bozdar

SRSO, Human Resources Development (HRD) Sector is one of the major sector of SRSO, which endeavors to enhance technical and managerial Skills for improving management, leadership and Socio economic condition at grass root level. The main feature of HRD is to develop human skills.



The training aims to enriching the professional competencies of senior and mid level professional staff by developing a need based curricula for training that provide academic, technical and managerial up gradation of skills.

. To achieve this objective the HRD unit has arranged four day training on "Loan Portfolio Management" for Credit staff. This training was held in HRD Training hall Sukkur on 23-26 Feb 2010. 21 participants were trained in this training.



OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING:

The main objective of this training was to build the capacity of Credit staff and clear understanding of: difference b/w Micro and macro credit Delinquency and its causes loan portfolio and average portfolio

Loan portfolio and its qualities

To calculate portfolio qualities ratios and delinquency ratios

Loan pricing

Defining fraud and its types

Social Appraisal Technical Appraisal, Disbursement and Recovery.

The workshop was conducted on participatory method. During each session basic information was delivered through presentations, lectures and discussions.



Tallat Mehmood DPM NRSP Islamabad was the resource person. He shared tools, techniques, skills and ways to disburse the credit in proper way and its smooth recovery.

PARTICIPANTS REFLECTION:

At the end of the training, SRSO Management visited HRD and met with participants to get the feedback which was quite positive and encouraging. The resource person put his efforts to impart contents of the training. Overall, training was fruitful and helped in understanding the sensitivity of the credit programme.

CLOSING REMARKS FROM AGM SRSO:

AGM Mr. Yar Mohammad Bozdar participated last day to attain the closing of training. While sharing his comments, He said "the army of SRSO (Professionals) is well equipped with the technical tools of RCED to overcome the impediments and obstacles. He appreciated the trainer also. Certificates were distributed at the end of the training.

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your task...

Selection By: Umat-ul-karim

It is bad to fail, but it is worst not to try for the success

Selection By: Naveed Ishaque Memon

Always Speak Truth

A lie will easily get you out of a scrape and yet beautifully, rapture possesses you, when you have taken the scrape and left out the lie.

Truth fears no questions.

By: Rajkumar



SRSO
Newsletter

January- March 2010