

Project Completion Report

Under LEP-I

**Livelihood Enhancement and Protection Project
Funded By PPAF at District Ghotki**

Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)

Head Office Sukkur

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Executive Summary

Sindh Rural Support organization recognized livelihood enhancement as one of the prime focused programmatic area to contribute in reducing the miseries of poor & vulnerable lot. In this regard, the organization has planned and successfully implemented numerous projects and programs with successful models to mobilize and sensitize the target communities, and provide limited means, broaden opportunities, skills etc. to enhance and sustain their livelihood in best possible way. SRSO is currently implementing a livelihood Enhancement & Protection project (LEP) with the help of PPAF in 3 union councils (Beriri, Ali Bagh and Bago Daho) of district Ghotki.

This project seeks to enhance productivity of poor individuals and communities. The project aims at improving the income of the poor and underprivileged groups of the society. Project focuses on enhancing the skills for greater income generation. It is a unique project which provides customized solutions to help the poor come out of the poverty. The objective of Livelihood Enhancement and Protection project is to develop the capacity, opportunities, assets and productivity of community members to reduce their vulnerability to shocks, improve their livelihoods initiatives and strengthens their business operations under below mentioned deliverables achievement:

1. Orientation Meetings conducted about LEP implementation with staff & stake holders.
2. Conducting PSC Survey/Wealth Ranking survey for the identification of Ultra poor & vulnerable people in targeted community with identification of 10,540 beneficiaries.
3. Livelihood Investment Plan (LIP) formation of 4,050 beneficiaries for future interventions.
4. 4,306 beneficiaries provided of various trainings to enhance capacities & skill enhancements & 426 persons provided wage compensation.
 - A. Enterprise Development Trainings.
 - B. Skill Enhancement & Development Trainings.
 - C. Livestock/Poultry Development and Management Trainings.
5. Formation of Procurement Committees for assets procurement & Transfer to beneficiaries with transparent procurement procedures adopted.
6. Asserts Transfer of 669 beneficiaries under the Livestock, Trade & other components.
7. Business Incubation.
8. Formation of 200 Common Interest Groups (CIGs) among 1743 beneficiaries with motivation for saving of 163,610 towards advance stage of CLF interventions.
9. Linkages buildings of C.I.Gs with different Organization, institutions and stakeholders.
10. Awareness raising sessions regarding agriculture & Livestock development.

11. Coordinated PPAF visit to portray transparent implementation & outcomes of project.

Above mentioned activities leads to visible achievements of outcome under the project of

- Trainings delivery makes people more wise & prudent to selection of good & optimal for their interest with value addition in existing work.
- Trained vocational skills holders have got a good platform to utilize their skills in order to earn for the family to change their social and economical conditions.
- Social & Economic status has been changed after asset transfer which enabled the destitute women to reduce their poverty & utilization of optimal solution for better livelihood.
- Saving trend/tendency has much more understood and is being practiced seriously in formed CIGs which could be very handy in long or broader perspective.
- The poor women of CIGs are able to priorities the plans as well as able to execute the plans and getting maximum benefits by utilizing the CIG platform.
- Various recipes of CIGs formation lead to business synergy & value addition for social enterprise to uplift the social & economical aspects.

1. Introduction:

The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) is striving to reduce the poverty through the empowerment of women in the rural areas of Sindh Province, particularly in nine Northern Districts. In connection with the poverty reduction SRSO entered into an agreement with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) in March-2011 to execute the project namely Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) project in District Ghotki.

The Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) project aims at to improve the living standards of the targeted households in order to the vulnerability to shocks reduced. It also emphasis on poor communities/people in order to gain the increased access to the quality based infrastructure services within the areas or adjoining areas where there has been consistent deprived exited.

The objective of the Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) project is to develop the capacity, opportunities, assets and productivity of community members to reduce their vulnerability to shocks, improve their livelihoods initiatives and strengthen their business operations. LEP also supports community members to build up their savings capacity and proficiency in funds management through internal lending, while complementing these efforts with grants and technical support to increase assets, productivity and incomes. Under this component, mechanisms has developed and implemented to identify and supported to innovative micro enterprises and value chain development that resulted as improved livelihood.

The project also focuses on the easy and proper access of women and children to the Health facilities and also ensures that all the children of 5 to 7 years must be in schools and at-least complete the primary cycle of education at their best.

Besides the aforesaid objectives the project also ensures the institutional development of community based organizations/institutions in order to foster the practical work of linkages and networking at gross route levels for resource mobilization as to move up to the next level.

2. Staff Orientation:

One day orientation work shop was conducted in June-2011 in order to orient the project teams regarding conceptual understanding and implementation methodology of the project. Eight pax participated in the workshop to which Mr. Asad Ali Jatoi the District Manager Ghotki oriented thoroughly to the project staff.

During orientation participants took immense interest in activities like presentations and participatory learning etc. Concept of asset transfer and protection to the existing livelihood options/resources, results of poverty score card and focusing hundred percent poor women remained the Major discussions of workshop. Participants were also oriented regarding budgetary allocation for the project.

At the end of this glorious workshop the participants developed the detailed implementation /operation plan for the project in order to execute the activities accordingly.

3. Poverty Score Card

Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) is working in Sindh Province since 2003 to liberate the potential abilities, skills and knowledge of rural men and women, to enable them to articulate their aspirations and to effectively marshal the resources they need to meet their identified needs. The purpose of SRSOs work is to alleviate poverty by enabling people to break the cycle of poverty, which begins with lack of opportunity, extends to the well-known miseries of economic and nutritional poverty and leads new generations to endure the same conditions.

However, over a period of time some of the most frequent questions asked include who are the poor? How many poor are there? Where do they live and what is their social and economic profile? In order to answer these questions, the SRSO have a developed approach in form of Poverty Scorecard that answers all these questions.

The Poverty Scorecard is thus a simple and practical tool to measure poverty at different levels i.e. household level, Deh level, Union Council level, Taluka level and District level. It is blind and neither the enumerator nor the respondent can interpret its results because it does not ask direct questions about incomes and expenditures. The Poverty Scorecard facilitates in identification and targeting the poor and poverty by estimating the likelihood of how poor is a household as compared to other households in the vicinity. The targeting is done by reaching out to every household in a Deh/Union Council and thus is also a census survey as well. It also determines how poverty levels change over a period time with interventions and thus can be used for implementing poverty reduction programmes/projects and more importantly their impact on ground.

3.1.Why SRSO used Poverty Score Card?

- It identifies households which are asset less and no land of their own
- It provides real time rural households census data
- It provides real time poverty data for individual rural households
- It assists in developing a five year Union Council Based rural development plan
- It can identify households that do not have any salaried member
- It can identify households that do not have any salaried member within the household
- It can identify households who can be eligible for being a beneficiary of Government's social protection programmes like Zakat, health insurance, etc
- It can identify siblings of the Ultra-poor and Vulnerable poor households who can be beneficiaries and participants of vocational training, assets transfer etc.
- It can identify the number of households that do not have potable drinking water and toilet facilities and thus as well identify villages that need infrastructure in terms of drinking water supply schemes and sanitation facilities

- It can identify households that do not have houses and can be eligible for getting houses or support from the Peoples Housing Cell to construct their houses.
- It can identify the number of school age children not enrolled in schools and thus help develop appropriate educational facilities for providing education for all.
- Overall the Poverty scorecard is a very sound tool to measure outcomes of targeted poverty and the progress of development programme and projects undertaken to alleviate it on a year to year basis.

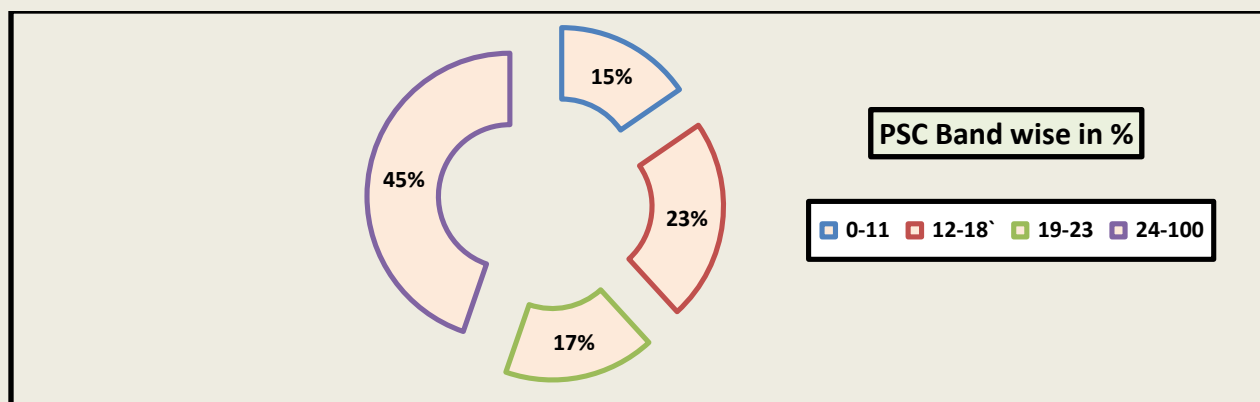
3.2.Methodology and process of PSC data collection:

Under Livelihood Enhancement & protection (LEP) project the following strategy was adopted to collect information, initially data had been collected at two levels.

- Household level (By using Pakistan Poverty Scorecard developed by World Bank)
- Village level (Focused Group Discussions, Transect walk, Interviews, etc)

Total 3 teams were put in place with 15 persons. Each team comprises a team leader, a supervisor, one data entry operator and 2 enumerators (plus 2 as back-up). While each team covered one union council and one UC was completed in 30 days. The whole process included orientation training of supervisors, enumerators, and data punch persons and MIS supervisors. The process also, ensured strong monitoring and scrutiny of the forms filled each day. A separate team of 2 persons were engaged in writing and compiling the data to produce the final product in the form of a report for each UC. During the process stakeholders visited the area and witnessed the process in the field. Also, Teams were able to capture all the photographs and law and order situation emerged during the survey and the survey portrays the below results:

Sr. No	UC	0-11	12-18`	19-23	24-100	Total
1	Beriri	332	568	497	1,717	3,114
2	Ali Bagh	673	906	659	1,622	3,860
3	Bago Daho	620	928	644	1,374	3,566
Total		1,625	2,402	1,800	4,713	10,540



4. Achievements of LEP-I (Inception to Completion)

TASK/ACTIVITIES	Project Targets	Women	Men	Total	% Achieved
PSC completed	10,114	368	10,172	10,540	104%
LIP Completed	4,046	66	3,984	4,050	100%
CIG formed	200	198	2	200	100%
CIG Members	-	1,727	16	1,743	0%
CIG Saving	-	163,610	-	163,610	0%
CIG saving (Average Per Member)	-	1,743	-	1,743	0%
Assets Transferred/distributed to persons	650	597	72	669	103%
Training provided to person	4,046	2,050	2,256	4,306	106%
Person provided with wage compensation	405	297	129	426	105%
Amount provided as wage compensation	1,620,000	912,400	707,600	1,620,000	100%
Awareness Raising sessions participants	-	-	-	-	0%
PWDs identified	-	-	-	-	0%
PWDs assessed during assessment camps	-	-	-	-	0%
Assistive devices distributed	-	-	-	-	0%
Teachers trained on inclusive education	-	-	-	-	0%

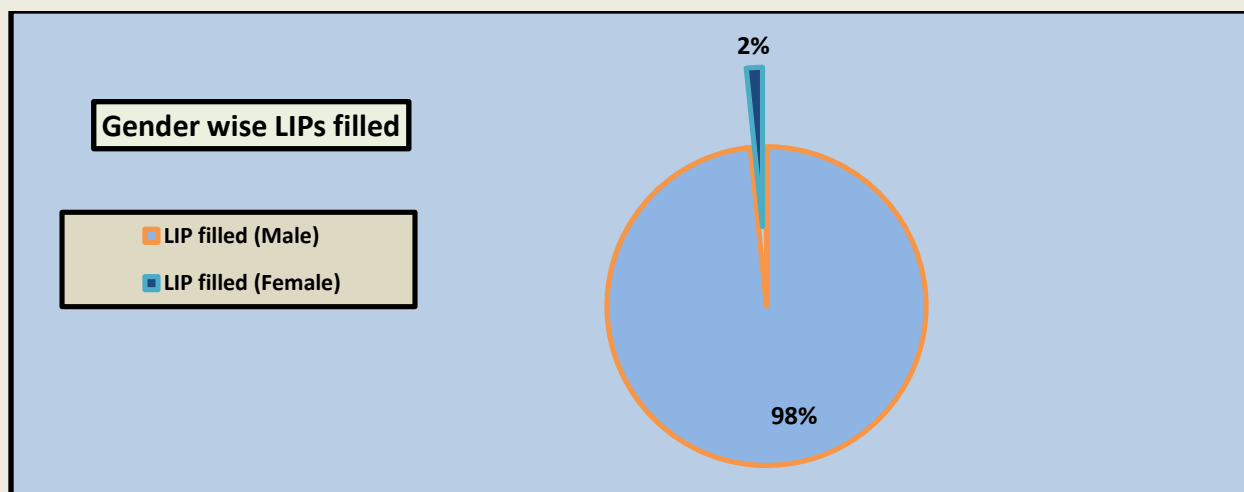
PWDs family members trained	-	-	-	-	0%
Enrollment of CWDs in mainstream Schools	-	-	-	-	0%
Inclusion of PWDs in COs/CIGs	-	9	-	9	0%
Linkages developed	154	32	-	32	21%
Case studies submitted to PPAF	-	18	4	22	0%
Disbursements (Rs. In million by PPAF for LEP component)		-	-	44.06	0%

5. Livelihood Investment Plan:

The Livelihood Investment Plan (LIP) of all those members who willing to start the business in order to improve their incomes with their own efforts through the technical support of SRSO LEP team. Thus the activity has taken much time, because the LIP has been filling at the individual household level which has got duly verified by the relevant household with their signature or thumb impressions. The LIP has enabled the members practically to plan and execute the business which they have planned to start. During the reporting period a total of 4,050 Livelihood Investment Plans (LIPs) forms have been filled in order to take appropriate intervention with those members who found desired to execute any reasonable business.

Sr. No	Activity/Task	Project Target	Achievements	% Achieved
1	Livelihood Investment Plan	4,050	4,050	100%
2	LIP filled (Male)	0	3,984	0
3	LIP filled (Female)	0	66	0

During the activity the teams have focused on the better understanding of the members to make them fully aware regarding the basic purpose and importance of this huge activity before preparing household based plan for better livelihood, meant to design the whole activity and project in the District Ghotki. Initially teams have faced bit problem to fill the LIP form but with passage of time the teams learnt to fill the form properly with the detailed discussion and full consent of relevant members whose forms had been filled.



It is clearly illustrated in above chart the 98% LIPs had filled of Man and only 2% filled with women in the intervened area during the phase of LEP-I in District Ghotki.

6. Capacity Building (Different Type of Trainings):

In order to commence any kind of tangible intervention in the project, there is a mutually agreed way to train targeted members as they may start their business with the variety of their choices and off course with available resources. Below mentioned trainings were imparted to the members/beneficiaries on different trades.

To ensure the proper and efficient livestock management at the village, trainings have been arranged to train all those beneficiaries who have been interestingly involved starting their own business to find out the appropriate livelihood options. During the training the members were made aware to the modern techniques of livestock management at house level and how ensure the prevention of diseases among the animals by adopting the different types of precautionary measures as animals may get healthy which ultimately best source of good production either of milk or meat.

Besides the training on livestock the vocational training under this project was provided to the households that were identified as being under the poverty line (poverty rank 0 - 23) with certain disabilities. which leads to either self or external employment of both men & women. Vocational training was offered at various locations that includes NRSP's Vocational, Technical & Educational Center (VTEC) Sukkur, ITC Ghotki as well as Hafiz-ul- Millat institute Daharki and outreach field training centers established to provide the training at the doorstep of rural poor women.

In proposing and promoting potential of participants, in the service of socio-economic development of the underprivileged, it was important firstly, to maintain a sharp focus on methodologies that can effectively contribute to their primary needs in respect of literacy, education, health, disability-training and employment-related skills.

– **Selection Criteria:**

Vocational training opportunity was provided to the person who themselves are member of the CO or their relatives (blood relation) of the CO members, who must fall under the PSC (0-23) and age would not be more than 35 years.

– **Training Need Identification**

Market need is assessed to introduce those vocational trades in respective area which result into employable skills and marketable production. And after that trained personnel can easily find their place in the job market and ultimately would earn the money to fulfill the domestic needs properly.

– **Training Need Assessment**

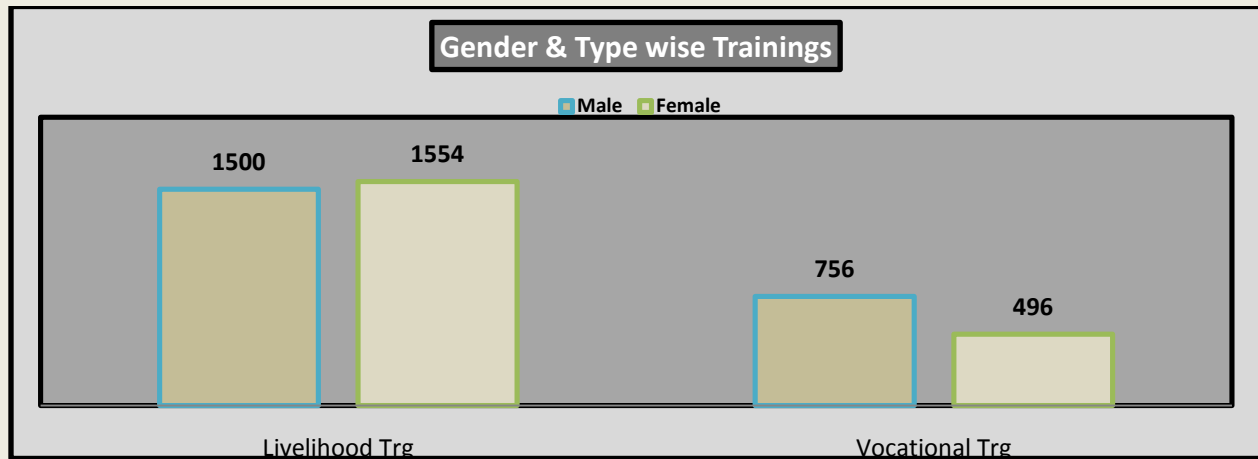
Through PSC identify the target group and conducted the semi structured interview to assess their specific training needs. Assessed needs were from employable technical trades and training assessment officer conducted individual interviews to assess his/her seriousness in the training.

During the project tenure the achievements remained that i.e. 1,252 participants trained in vocational trainings with different trades and 3,054 participants became trained in livestock trainings.

6.1.Trade wise No of Pax Trained:

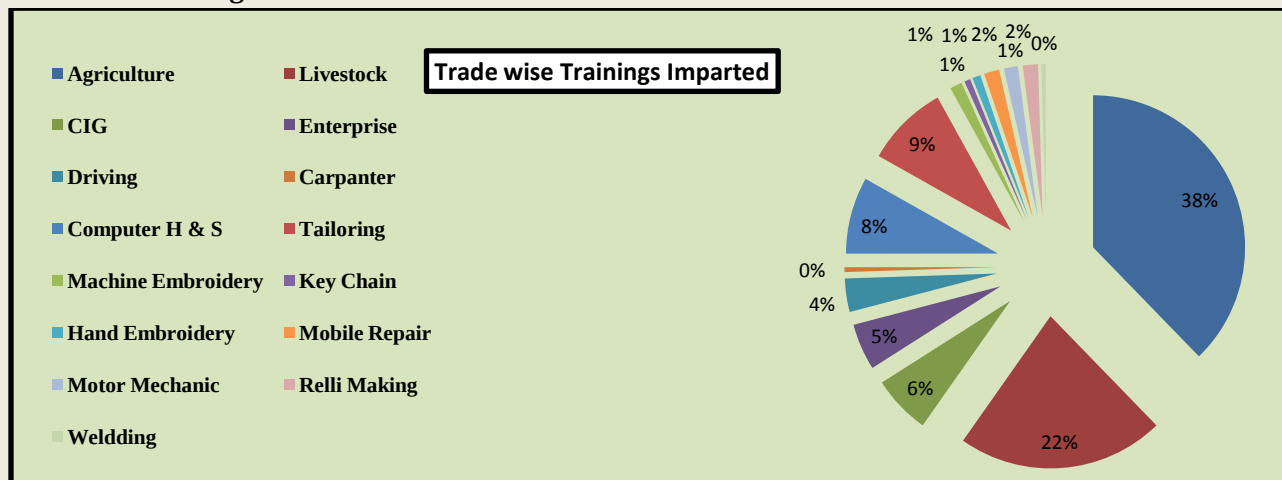
Sr. No	Name of Trade	No of Pax Trained
1	Agriculture	1,625
2	Livestock	948
3	CIG	268
4	Enterprise	213
5	Driving	153
6	Carpenter	22
7	Computer H & S	352
8	Tailoring	379
9	Machine Embroidery	56
10	Key Chain	28
11	Hand Embroidery	38
12	Mobile Repair	70
13	Motor Mechanic	64
14	Relli Making	70
15	Welding	20
Total Pax Trained under LEP-I		4,306

6.2. Gender & Type wise Figures are:



In above table, it is revealed that 1,500 Male were trained in livelihoods trainings and 756 Male were trained under vocational trainings, whereas 1,554 Female became trained in Livelihood trainings and 496 Female got training in vocational trainings under different trades of both type in the District.

6.3. Trade wise Figures are:



In above pie-chart it is illustrated that 38% participants have been trained under the trade of Computer Hardware and Software and 22% participants have been trained under livestock trainings in the District, rest of trade shown in the chart remained with minimum coverage with limited scope.

Major Outcomes Achieved:

- The vocational skills of community members have been enhanced and utilized properly.
- Business related environment improved and now is being promoted throughout the Districts and many individuals become aspirant to adopt such work.
- Willing members trained and enabled linked with market to earn at best.
- Local Resources Mobilized and benefited ultimately for poverty reduction.
- Created employment opportunities at local level.
- Local Market enriched and outreach capacity enhanced.

(Vocational Training Participants seeking training at Hafiz-ul-Millat Centre Daharki)



(Certificate distribution ceremony after the completion of Vocational Training at VTC Mirpur)



7. Asset Transfer to Ultra and Vulnerable poor:

The transferring of Assets to the ultra and vulnerable poor members in the Community Organizations (COs) is a technical work which has been carried out with great care and defined process. Thus the activity required the certain measures to be adopted to make it more convenient for the community/beneficiaries properly.

The assets transferred to ultra and vulnerable poor are of different types according to demand/willingness of community through resolution made by a community organization. After the need identification and proper resolution, a procurement committee is formed whose work is to identify the vendor, and take three quotations in terms of each asset in order to transfer it properly to the proposed beneficiary.

To make this process more effective and easy the animals has been located locally where the women may have easy access and the vendors could be reliable before making any sort of purchasing at the village level, thus the task was too challenging but the involvement of community based institutions ensured and made this process quite easy meant to planned.

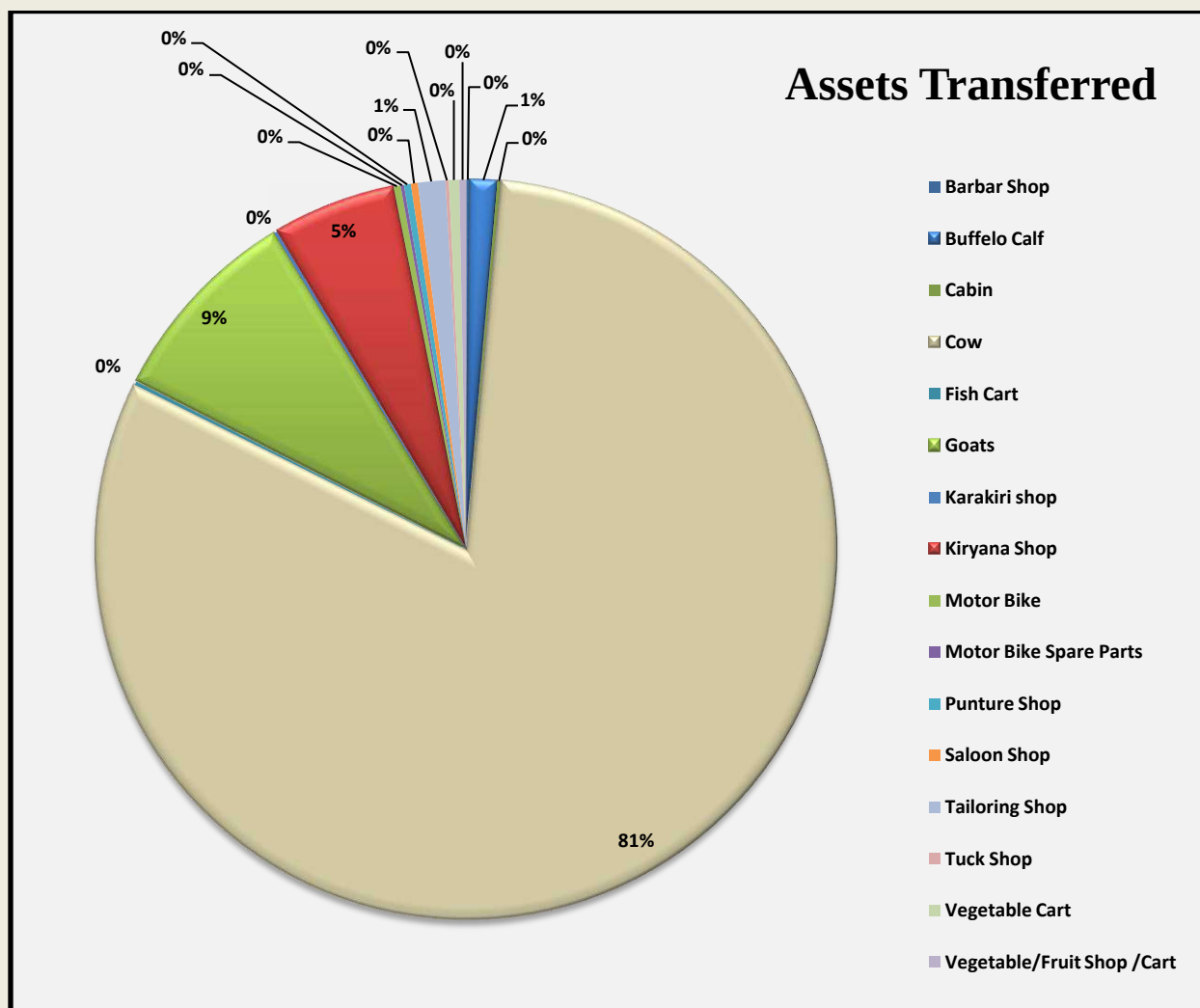
Besides purchasing and other formalities the focus always remained on the authentic and relevant documentation of the assets from offices to the field, while in the documentation has been made at two stages i.e. one asset transfer file has been prepared and made available with the beneficiary him/herself and second file has been prepared and provided in the relevant community based organization where everyone have easy and proper access to grasp the beneficiary related information at both the stages. At both the stages and in office the below documentation is part of asset transfer file:

- Asset Transfer Form duly proposed by the PPAF which contains the overall data of beneficiary, their training status, the detail regarding procurement committee and vendors' details, and this form is compulsory to attach before getting approval to transfer the asset.
- Requisition form for purchasing is part of documents in which the beneficiary formally requests the CO/SRSO to allow her/him to purchase the asset which already proposed and approved by CO & SRSO.
- Fund Transfer request form is also the part of whole documentation that taken place for a single asset.
- Three Quotations followed by an error free comparative statement document before the purchasing of assets.
- A formal resolution passed by the relevant CO in which it recommends to initiate the asset transfer process to the proposed beneficiary.

7.1.Nature & Type of Assets Transferred:

Sr. No	Nature of Asset	Quantity
1	Barbar Shop	1
2	Buffalo Calf	8
3	Cabin	1
4	Cow	541
5	Fish Cart	1
6	Goats	59
7	Karakiri shop	1
8	Kiryana Shop	36
9	Motor Bike	2
10	Motor Bike Spare Parts	1
11	Puncture Shop	2
12	Saloon Shop	2
13	Tailoring Shop	8
14	Tuck Shop	1
15	Vegetable Cart	3
16	Vegetable/Fruit Shop /Cart	2
Total Assets Transferred in LEP-1		669

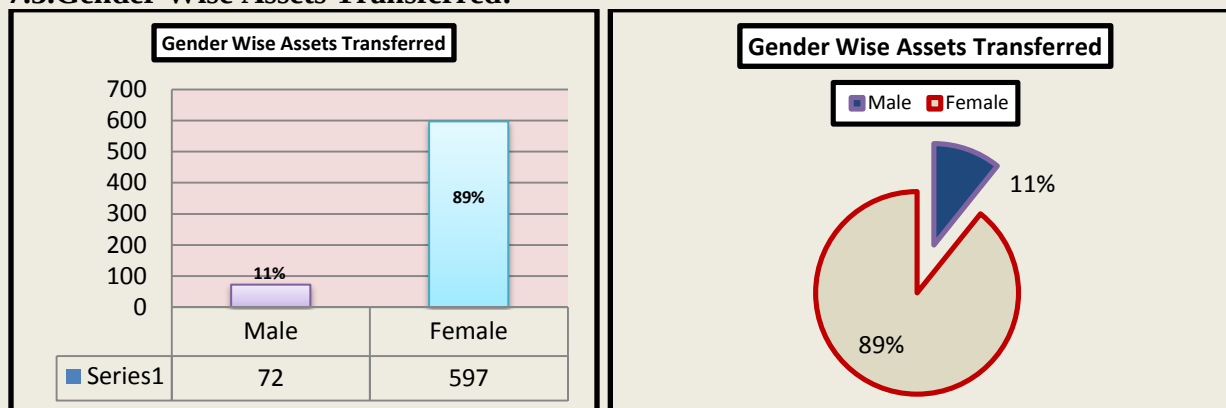
7.2.Nature wise assets transferred in (%):



In above pie-chart it revealed that the 81% of the assets as Cow have been transferred to the beneficiaries whereas 9% assets as Goats transferred, and 5% assets as Kiryana Shops have transferred to the relevant beneficiaries.

The above huge percentage shows that the poor and destitute community have enough potential for rearing as well as management of livestock at household level, therefore after the period of 12 months the many beneficiaries have successfully expanded their livelihood and efforts are undertaken to make it protective for over a long period.

7.3. Gender Wise Assets Transferred:



It is clearly illustrated in above analysis that 597 female were given assets which is 89% and only 72 male were given assets which only 11% of totals assets transferred in LEP-1 project. The transferring of assets to women ultimately creates a sense of ownership, authority and empowerment in poor women who have been actively willing to do something on their own behalf with financial assistance to ensure their livelihood more secure and sustainable.

The Observable Outcomes:

- The asset transfer activity has enabled the destitute women to reduce their poverty.
- Bring the inclination of rural poor women to asset creation thought at the gross root level.
- Empowered the destitute to have something for their difficult time to escape.
- Social & Economic status has comparatively been changed.
- The inferiority sense of rural women has decreased at a considered level among the destitute.
- Created a sense of doing and striving in order to fight against the extremely level of poverty.
- Opening the pathways to new small enterprise like mind business at village level and security and protection to their livelihood option has improved and sustained.
- Women has learnt that how to manage the livestock at household level and how to make it more productive which would be helpful in poverty reduction & livelihood protection.
- Per capita incomes improved after the initiation of small scale business at household levels.
- Enabled the poor women to think for different options to alleviate the real poverty and business based environments has improved.



(Asset Transferred as Karyana Shop)



(Fish Cart Transferred to Mr. Basheer Ahmad Mirani in Village Ganghi UC Ali Bagh)

8. Common Interest Group (CIG):

Common interest groups are comprised of individuals with similar livelihood aspirations, plans as well as resource based on social geographical background, which organize and engage themselves to initiate a livelihood activity. These groups have been provided with requisite technical support including basic infrastructure, working capital, linkages with the market and banks for successful implementation of proposed activities.

With the formation of Common Interest Groups the individuals have been engaged in a wide range of opportunities and development of their existing livelihood activities and assets; through this the value chain, their efficiencies and knowledge have improved. Besides those provided technical knowledge that would enhance their access and participation in local markets.

Now the Common interest group is a business group having the same interest in the same business, this group is formed where (LEP) intervention are ongoing. Common interest group is divided into two types of members one is basic and second is honorary which consists of 7 to 15 members. The linkages of CIGs were given more importance in order to find out maximum options of market and livelihood, primarily all the CIGs have been facilitated to explore their opportunities prevailing within the surrounded areas.

S.No	Activity/Task	Project Target	Achievements	% Achieved
1	Common Interest Group (CIG) Formed	200	200	100%
2	CIGs formed (Male)	0	2	0

3	CIGs formed (Female)	0	198	0
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Observable Outcomes:

- Trained vocational skills holders have got a good platform to utilize their skills in order to earn for the family to change their social and economical conditions.
- Community use to have self-dependency behaviours/attitude and have willed to promote their skills to earn a lot at gross root level.
- Saving trend/tendency has much more understood and is being practiced seriously in formed CIGs which could be very handy in long or broader perspective.
- The poor women of CIGs are able to priorities the plans as well as able to execute the plans and getting maximum benefits by utilizing the CIG platform.

9. The Relevancy and Benefits:

The outcome indicators are generally found different in broader term, but the relevancy and effectiveness translate the overall change that sometimes taken place beyond the set parameter or even could be different but observable at all levels and stages. Likewise the set objectives in LEP project may promote the particular portion of the society but irrespective of specifications, it has been found very gigantic in terms of effectiveness, relevancy and implementation.

Therefore besides the said objective some irrelevant which may conceive as indirect outcome being observed vigilantly in the operational area of the project and those outcomes may be illustrated as follows:

9.1. Social benefits:

The social change within SRSO organized community has began identifying the victims of the poverty, conflict, social exclusion and supported them in fighting their cases in first within community organizations; second through public voice and advocacy campaigns; and third by operating physical and social infrastructure programmes for the “poor”. Assembling the people for above certain causes is always a huge task but in LEP this happened in form of work with the community based organizations like COs and VOs in district Ghotki by introducing the different as well as vibrant interventions of LEP. Having different dynamics of each union council still similarity can be seen where the meaningful intervention of LEP taken place, which has ensured the livelihood protection but also created a social harmony among the masses and beneficiaries in different forms.

Empowerment of women is a silent instrument that provides a reflection of change in different forms or by observing a series of good occurrence where empowerment would be ensured. In LEP, SRSO believes that the sustainability of the society and the protection of livelihood lies down under the empowerment of the women by adopting certain steps of empowerment that leads the women towards a healthy environment, sense of ownership in women sustains the maturity towards to mission and rural women has got responsibility to reduce the poverty by

taking all the walk of life together in a parallel way where no women has deprivation of caste and color just mingled with each other for a unique purpose that will surely lead them towards a prosperous future.

9.2. Economic Benefits:

Hundred per cent targeted women were below poverty strata (0-23) and 60 per cent having Poverty Score below 18 (ultra and vulnerable poor bends on the poverty ladder). The result of the base line shows that the target population had no access to the financial or economic market and lacked the skills and resources to access economic and financial markets. After the investment through this project all the poor targeted women were given opportunity to financial resources (Asset Transfer and CIG Savings, skill enhancement training) and were trained how to benefit from the resources available to them. SRSO estimates that around 80 per cent of the targeted households are engaged in an economic activity, which they were not doing before the project. However, a detailed study to analyze the economic impact is required to capture the larger impact and benefit.

LEP project creates a sense of understanding among the masses for the welfare such as economic welfare etc. in this project the community of a specific area uses the modern techniques to save some thing for rainy day as to fight against any unforeseen occurrence which led them to worse condition if something would not be in their hands within the village.

By getting the Assets and vocational trainings under this project, the community enables their self to make a foundation of a better tomorrow for their upcoming generations promoting the small scale of business at village/household level in the village. There is a good thing which has enabled these villagers is the saving from the benefits of work after vocational skills and asset creation and off course sense of responsibility by controlling the monthly expenses as the under limitations of current incomes, according to some women of CIGs that the asset transfer and vocational trainings has economical authorized to them to plan their monthly expenses, but as compare to previous days they were not able to choice their expenses in the light of their incomes, because they would not had any incomes to be planned the expenses.

Now it is being urged by many CIGs and COs to promote this gross root level work which may have positive chance of change in current state of affairs of these areas. As whole this project has put a magnificent impact over the life of ordinary people of district Ghotki particularly of three intervened UCs which is probably first steps towards the economical change and sustainability in the area.

10. Employment Generated:

The primary focus of the project remained on the skill enhancement of siblings of the poor households' particularly employable youth. The total 1,252 number of youth were trained in different trades. They were imparted skills, which resulted in self employment and employed by vendors around their neighbourhood.

The women trained in vocational skills under LEP project, had been organized into village level Common Interest Groups (CIGs). Women CIGs are linked themselves with different type private local dealers who helping those women to open new avenues for business. The CIGs are also taking orders from those dealers as well as from Sartyun Sang Shop of SRSO in order to produce different types of items upon their needs and choices. This linkage has employed many females on the village level to earn for the family.

11.Challenges (Operational Difficulties):

Undoubtedly during the implementation of any project or program certain obstacles has always been awaited in the way of achievements, then it is the role of project team to remove/restrict those difficulties or problems may not affect the project or program. Likewise the LEP team has faced numerous types of some countable difficulties but efforts were taken to overcome those with particular manner.

- a. The Identification of Local potential Training Institute for vocational training has remained core concerned but the problem has become solved when SRSO established the VTC setup and convinced the partner organizations & corporate training institutions to provide their services and the LEP project beneficiaries across the District.
- b. Asset Transferring through the Local vendors but this issue has solved and Local vendors were identified through CO/VO in order to provide their services.
- c. Prioritizing the community needs at the time of taking any intervention.
- d. There was a huge problem that the Post Experience of LEP type projects in the community has been appearing as a challenge but this issue has become settled because the entire activities are being carried out through the CO/VO in order to ensure the sustainability.
- e. Asset transferring and their desired management as well as production, initially found bit difficult, but with the passage of time and genuine efforts the asset owners became aware and the production as well as management found up to the mark.

12.Best Practices during the phase of implementation:

- Asset procurement was purely done through the consent concerned community organizations (COs) and the beneficiary herself/himself.
- Due to the ownership of Cos/VOs the strong follow up was made in order to save the assets at the time of flood or the rainfall observed in previous years.
- Micro Credit for the poor and destitute women through their respective COs and VO.
- The Participation of Deputy Commissioner (DC) in inauguration or conclusion and certificates ceremonies among trained members of vocational training centers was run for skill enhancement at different venues in the field.
- We have distributed one Unit Egyptian breed poultry to 300 ultra poor families to enhance their livelihood.

- Vaccination and Drenches to animals during follow up visits in all the LEP intervened union councils and villages.
- Conducted awareness meeting on Child Rights to convince the people as to stop child labor which thematically observed in the operational area/union councils of LEP-1.
- In extensive collaboration of District Government the Four medical camps were arranged for the vaccination of hepatitis and mass awareness as to prevent from such disease in the operational area or union councils of LEP project.
- Five poor Households were linked with TB dot program in order to find out the treatment which they could not afford.
- The mass awareness session was made in 24 different villages where LEP project activities have carried out in order to stop the open defecation.
- Mass awareness meetings/sessions were also made in entire UC Bagho Daho for Polio vaccination.

13.Lesson Learnt:

- 1. Work through the Organization of poor women, created a sense of ownership and vital step towards the sustainability of livelihood project.*
- 2. The decision making through the CO/VO have always led to the good and desired results.*
- 3. Purchasing from outside the District has produced the weak and less productive assets in the community.*
- 4. Pre-training in livestock management has enabled the poor women to plan and manage the livestock accordingly irrespective of traditional methods of livestock management.*
- 5. To bring the value addition to work, the CIGs have need of additional trainings to moderate the entire work accordingly.*
- 6. Through the skill training the poor women become passionate to find out reasonable livelihood.*

Age & Experience Makes Difference

Case Study NO- 01



The passion to do something almost makes the things possible like 70 years old Mohammad Ali s/o Khuda Bux resident of village Beriri union council Beriri did; he basically belongs to the poor and illiterate family and spends his life under the object of extreme level of poverty. Although he was leading a normal life with all types of available resources at that time. Unexpectedly he becomes seriously ill with a dangerous disease and expensed almost everything to become curable. With all the efforts and expenses he becomes hopeless and would not have any single penny to arrange one time food for his family and nothing left behind in his hands and his family has sustained the difficult time ever faced in previous life just because of his sudden illness made this whole.

During the course of time the Livelihood Enhancement & Protection (LEP) Project has been implemented in the District Ghotki, meanwhile under this project he would have an opportunity to plan his own business as to furnish the all possible options of livelihood within the village. Later on the LEP team has filled his LIP in which he has strongly shown greater interest to start the business of a grocery shop on his own behalf. In spite of age at 70 years he planned all the possible things in a proper and vigilant manner to overcome the issue as early as possible.

Later on the asset transferring has been made to him in the form of grocery shop in which he has placed all the type of commodities being considered necessary items for daily consumption at the household level within the village. After opening up that shop he has tried his level best to give additional time to the shop as to enhance the livelihood of their children. Slowly and gradually he started to move from one level to another level with minimum chance of disadvantage.

After the opening up such a grocery shop the Mohammad Ali slowly becomes able to take the responsibility of food expenses of his family and becomes self sufficient to earn somewhat by which he could feed his family properly, now Muhammad Ali earns 700 on a daily basis which is sufficient to lead a middle class life easily and also have the responsibility to send his children to school as they have been deprived to get an education which is the basic right of every child. With this significant business of grocery shop Mohammad Ali has become able to return all the dues which he had borrowed during the time of his illness.

Besides fulfilling other responsibilities Mohammad Ali sees that the practices of savings would always enable him to plan his expenses in the light of amount /money that one person has to consume, therefore with this realistic approach he use to save at least 50 rupees on a daily basis at his home to get the support of that money at the time of difficult situations which no one knows when it appears.

After the running of grocery shop and proper benefits Mohammad Ali explains that *"Apart from my pre-conditions which were very difficult to pass, but with intervention of LEP i becomes able to control the overall financial matter since after a huge illness, the needs of the family are being fulfilled properly as per their desires, the children are being seen in the schools which is good for person who was almost deprived to see such days, overall the living conditions have been improved and now I am eligible to plan any additional activity within the village"*.

A Step towards Prosperous Future

Case Study No- 02

Women empowerment has not been considered at a meaningful scale until they prove their self likewise Mai Muradan 32 Years old widow poor lady resident of Village Mehar Shaikh union council Ali Bagh District Ghotki. She is the mother of 5 children one son and four daughters, she has observed the worst days of her life due to the unavailability of income generation resources and activities that led her to the extreme level of poverty. Her survivals become very

difficult when her husband and life partner have left this material world and went forever and left her alone to face the bitter and rigid days of her life with five innocent children, now life becomes very difficult to pass in a conservative society where no one is ready to pay for others on account of welfare and support. But she has never lost the hope and always remained optimistic that the time would surely come when good days will be awaited for them.

Very soon the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) has started the Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) Project with the financial support of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) in the village of Muradan because in her village the COs was already formed. When the activities of the LEP project have been started with their community organization (CO) she has shown huge interest in her CO to execute any kind of business with financial support which may take her to the next level in the future. Besides making a formal request to her CO, she also becomes eligible for any kind of financial support in an LEP project with PSC 5 which comes in an ultra-poor category at all.

Finally her CO has approved her nomination for asset transferring to open up a grocery shop within her village. During the course of bitter and difficult days she always planned to open up a shop but due to the lack of resources she had not able to do this. So by the intervention of LEP she becomes able to do what she has been planning for several years.

With LEP project she has availed an opportunity and opened up a grocery shop to start the livelihood for her innocent children, she has worked day in and day out to abstract the maximum benefit. With her adequate efforts and unbroken commitment she becomes able to earn up to 300 per day, which seems appropriate for her family to survive as compared to the previous days of agony and troubles. Having such income she is thinking of the savings as best weapon would be used at the time when there is no other source except loans.

Therefore besides bearing the expenses of her family, she also wishes to save at least 10 to 30 rupees on a daily basis to save for the rainy days, because she believes that it the efforts of man which makes everything possible. She also becomes authorize to send her children to the school with fair expenses similar to the other children of the same age and group as well as status. Besides making all other arrangements she also reserves her to think of the expansion of her livelihood options on a sustainable basis as to ensure the due protection of existing resources.

After taking all due efforts at maximum scale she (Muradan) explains her post conditions that *“I had nothing to eat and wear, but now we have food to eat and cloths to wear, my children were wondering without having proper schooling, but now they are well recognized students in the school, overall the life conditions/standard having improved”*.

