

## Education----A step ahead

Basti Awan is a remote village in which feudalism dominates and people are by & large uneducated lot. Girl's education is still a taboo, strictly prohibited norm.

---

South Asia partnership, Pakistan initiated Peace & Livelihood for Rural Poor (PLRP) program they have selected Basti Awan as well. With constant efforts, RDO helped villagers to form their own organization and create a Peace committee with the agenda of resolving conflict peacefully. Khushal Village organization formed and then with the consultation of villagers and RDO they have also nominates members for Peace Committee. Capacity building process was carry forward with an agenda of helping them to initiate development process on self-help basis. VO & PC committee members started motivational process among villagers with a value of gender equality.

RDO & SAP-PK program coordinator conduct monitoring visit and held detail discussion with VO & PC members. During meeting, VO female members showed their interest for girls education but, educational facility lacks. Responding to this concern, Shabnam Rashid said we have to initiate advocacy process with education department for the provision of educational facility. But as it will be long way so we need to identify a young person to whom we can engage to facilitate educational process for children especially for girls on the self help basis. Finally, Ghulam Yaseen, an educated but unemployed young person to start community school. Its decided that, VO would facilitate space for school and raise teacher salary by them.

### ***Children are getting education and Ghulam Yaseen got an employment:***

*In sensitive and* Gender discrimination behavior has revolutionize d into the constructive approach. Villagers who did not approve Girls education are contributing for teacher salary and now girls are also getting education. It is a result of arduous tasks, which RDO, VO and PC committee members has initiated under PLRP. **Educational process has started and now nobody can stop girls and boys to move ahead progressively, Ghulam Yaseen stated. He is very happy he got an opportunity to educate village children.**

## Peace Committee –Light in the Tunnel

Land dispute among and between Anwar, Maqsood Bibi and Saifullah was brought to newly formed VO and PC. Land dispute among family members turned into a big dispute, which could have been turned into bloodshed, but timely input from Rohi development organization, PC in assistance of Vo members solved it peacefully:

---

Dispute between relatives, Anwar and his sister Maqsood Bibi father sold their land to Saifullah who paid them total amount in installments. Only one lakh was remaining amount when their father died. Both sister and brother decided not to give land to Saifullah. When Saifullah heard this decision, he became furious and started frightening them and it turned into a bloody dispute.

The matter was brought to VO and PC. They held an emergency meeting and decided to convince both parties. After consulting legal authorities, VO and PC committee convinced them to resolve land dispute. Finally, it has decided that Saifullah will give them remaining amount and land will be transfer to him. ***The dispute was peacefully resolved, and saved them from any unseen bloodshed, which is common practice in villages over land disputes. People gracefully appreciating VO and PC efforts and find PC as a light in the tunnel.***

### **Flood, Mosquito bite and Malaria/dengue**

Due to torrential rains flood affected Basti Awaan. Besides other complication, stagnant water causes malaria and Dengue fever. Rohi Development Organization (RDO) visited the area on 8 September 2012 and noticed this as well. People were very upset and wanted to get rid of these crises. Every household have 2/3 persons suffering with malaria and few of them with dengue.

Flood affected family of Widow Shahnaz Bibi, mother of 4 children who were seriously sick but she could not afford their treatment. She did not have any support mechanism, so she has approached khushal village organization. VO held an emergency meeting, discussed the matter in detail. They have managed mosquito killer spray and prevented villagers from malaria and Dengue. They have also supported Shahnaz for children's treatment. She is very happy that VO preventive measures enable their children to be healthy.