





Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme



Socio-economic Baseline Narrative Household Case Study Of Sodhi

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE SUCCESS PROGRAMME

The Sindh Union Council & Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme is centred on the social mobilisation approach to Community Driven Development (CDD) developed by the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) in Pakistan. RSPs believe that each poor household has the potential to improve its condition, however, the household faces constraints that do not allow it to realise the potential. The potential can be harnessed if the poor households are mobilised to foster their own network of organisations at mohalla (Community Organisations – COs), village (Village Organisations – VOs) and union council levels (Local Support Organisations – LSOs). Once the women from poor households are organised, they prepare Micro Investment Plans (MIPs) wherein they highlight the potential income generating activities that they can undertake on their own, what constraints they face and how these constraints can be removed. RSPs provide Community Investment Fund (CIF) to these organisations so that they can provide small loans to CO members for the implementation of MIPs for income generation. While COs focus on income generating activities, VOs focus more on broader issues that affect the whole village, e.g. education, health, infrastructure, etc. The focus of LSOs is to support and guide the COs/VOs, and to foster linkages with government line departments.

Apart from guiding supporting social mobilisation and provision of CIF, RSPs also support other interventions under the SUCCESS Programme: income generating grants (IGG) to the poorest households identified through the poverty scorecard (PSC) census exercise, micro health insurance (MHI), community physical infrastructure (CPI), technical and vocational skills training (TVST), training of CO/VO/LSO leaders and Community Resource Persons (CRPs), and awareness raising sessions at community level. RSPs also facilitate linkages with government line departments and other programmes/projects.

The SUCCESS Programme is being implemented in eight districts of Sindh, namely: Kambar Shahdadkot, Larkana, Dadu, Jamshoro, Matiari, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan. With the objective to mobilise 770,000 women from all rural areas of the respective districts into 32,000 COs, 3,400 VOs, and 307 LSOs. The National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), Thardeep Rural Support Programme (TRDP) and the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) are the implementing partners for the SUCCESS Programme. The Programme is supported by the European Union Delegation to Pakistan. Further information about the SUCCESS Programme is available at: www.success.org.pk

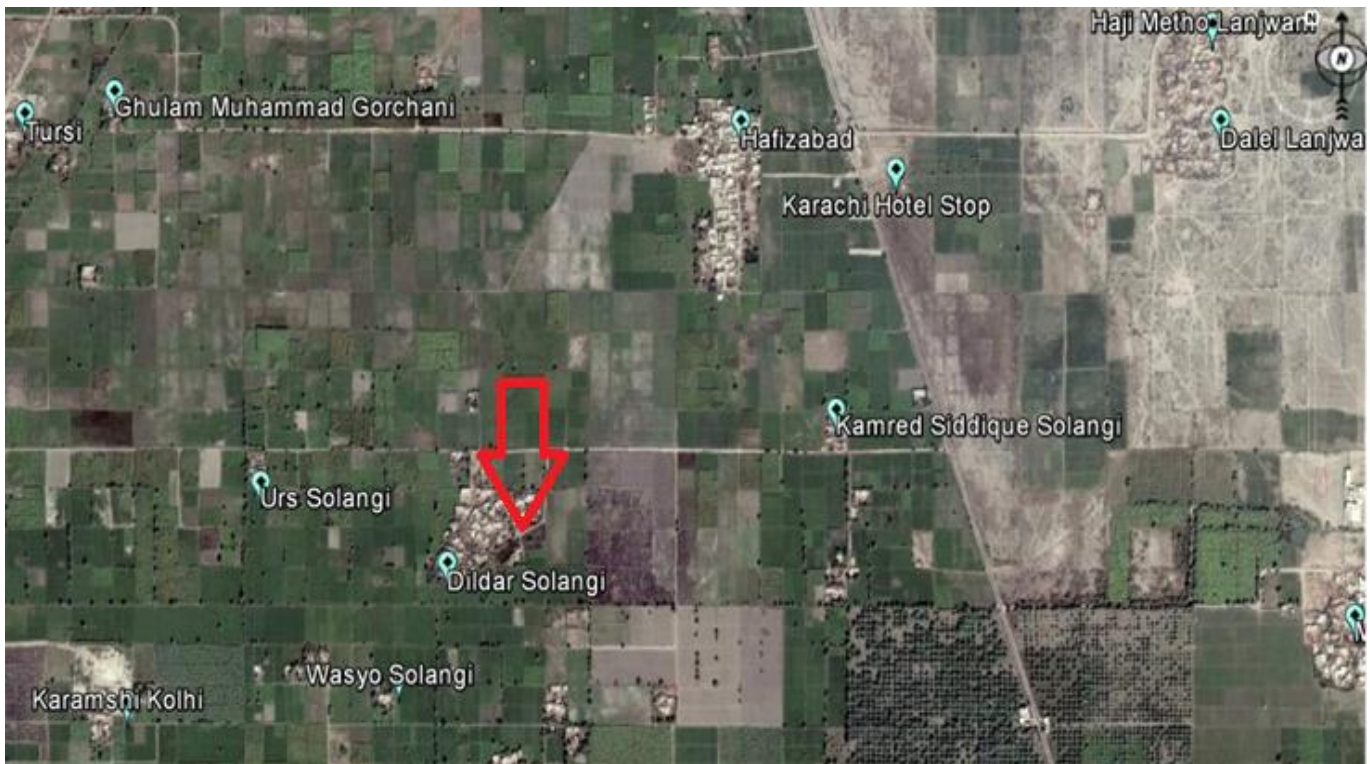
2. RESEARCH COMPONENT OF THE SUCCESS PROGRAMME

In this SUCCESS Programme under RSPN component there is a socio-economic research element to understand and document the dynamics of poverty at the household level (DOPH), to identify the causes of chronic poverty and escape from chronic poverty. RSPN is collaborating with the University of Mannheim (UM) for conducting DOPH in these two union councils of district Tando Allahyar. After conducting Poverty Score Card (PSC) survey, a socio-economic baseline survey was also conducted in the two union councils.

In this context to provided important quantitative data about households' demography, expenditure, savings, income sources, assets, access to social services, and poverty status, RSPN and UM agreed that there is a need for qualitative analysis as well so that a more thorough understanding of DOPH can be developed and documented. To fulfil this purpose, Ms. Sodhi's household is purposively selected from village Dildar Solangi, UC Masoo Bozdar to conduct baseline case study. Further information about the SUCCESS Programme's research component is available at <https://success.org.pk/index.php/research-and-advocacy/>

As part of the research component under the SUCCESS programme, a randomised control trial has been set up in these UCs, where some settlements will receive the intervention early and others with a delay of two years calculated from the date of the first intervention in treatment villages. Ms. Sodhi's household is living in one of the treatment village Dildar Solangi.

The exact location of her village is the road leading to Kamred Siddique Solangi village from the Karachi Stop, Chambar, union council Masoo Bozdar.



Source: Google Map

3. VILLAGE POVERTY PROFILE

Village Dildar Solungi consists of 71 households with a total population of 465. The Poverty Score Card (PSC) Survey was conducted in 2016 (NRSP-PSC Survey 2016). The Table 1 shows that on the poverty band 39% households of village Daldar Solungi fall into the poor (0-23), including 4% in the category of extremely poor (0-11 PSC category). The corresponding figures for the union council Masoo Bozdar are 50% and 9%, and for the district Tando Allahyar are 50.3% and 9.5%. This shows that the proportion of poor households (0-23 PSC category) in village Dildar Solungi is less than the average of the union council and the district (NRSP-PSC Survey 2016).

Table 1: Distribution of Dildar Solungi households by PSC category

PSC Category	Number of Households	Percentage of Households
0-11	03	4
12-18	12	17
19-23	13	18
24-34	25	35
35-59	18	25
60-100	0	0
Total	71	100

(NRSP-PSC Survey 2016)

4. PURPOSE, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to understand the present socio-economic status of the household and then to track transformational change in Ms Sodhi's household with the roll out of NRSP's interventions, under the SUCCESS Programme. There are various programme interventions like Community Investment Fund (CIF), Income Generating Grants (IGG), Micro Health Insurance (MHI), Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) and Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) that will be offered in the area. Further updating of this study will help to track and explain transformational changes.

To collect this story, purposive sampling procedure was used particularly keeping the view of different features of household like the household size and household head's socio-economic and health status. The data was collected through the qualitative technique of rapport building, in-depth interviews and participant observation. Also, quantitative data has been used that was collected through poverty scorecard survey (NRSP, 2016). An open-ended approach was adopted during the research interactions so as to allow a wide range of ideas. The data includes household's human capital, financial capital, natural capital, social capital and cultural capital. An in-depth interview was conducted from Ms. Sodhi with her oral consent on 25th January and follow-up visit was paid on 4th May, 2017 at Dildar Solungi.

5. MS. SODHI'S HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

Ms. Sodhi is the widow of Allah Bux. She is 38 years old and her household PSC score is 21. She did not receive any formal education. She got engaged with her paternal cousin Allah Bux when she was merely a child and married in 1995 under *Watta Satta* (bride exchange) arrangements. Sodhi said that as she and Allah Bux grew up, her family found that Allah Bux was facing issues of mental retardation. Sodhi added, "In our culture, a girl is not asked about the husband, she is just married off irrespective of his health, mental and wealth status. The girl cannot raise a voice even if the future husband is mentally disturbed. She just has to accept and face the situation. In fact, she sacrifices herself to protect the family's honour."

After marriage, Sodhi lived in a joint family system with her parents-in-law, brothers-in-law and their families. After the marriage, there were increasing bouts of arguments, shouting and fights. Therefore the family elders decided and asked Allah Bux to leave the family.

Sodhi continues with her story, "I was living a relative cheerful life before marriage but after marriage, my life was changed drastically. My situation worsened and I faced many hardships and even today I suffer."

Sodhi said, "My father had 15 acres of agricultural land. However, as is the prevailing social norm, my sister and I were not given our share of the inheritance. My father divided the land equally between my four brothers."

Sodhi's suffering continued when her child, a boy, became handicapped and could not use one hand. Then her husband passed away. Loss of inheritance, break of the joint family, handicapped child and loss of husband are the main reasons Sodhi's sorry condition.

Talking about her late husband, Sodhi said, "Allah Bux was master of his own will; when he was in a mood he earned for family otherwise he lived in his own thoughts and world. Given his mental instability, hence his unpredictable nature, on January 15 he attempted suicide by drinking agricultural insecticide. After suffering for 15 days at a hospital, he passed away."

Currently, Sodhi lives with her three children (two sons aged 10 and 7 and one daughter aged 15 years in one room mud house (belonging to her father in law) without a toilet facility. The whole family goes to the open fields for defecation. Her household uses hand pump belonging to one brother-in-law and electricity power supply line in the household is also given by another brother-in-law.

After the death of Allah Bux, household's all financial responsibilities fell on Sodhi. To make ends meet, she sews quilts, and *Rili* (traditional wall/floor covering) and her daughter also support the family by doing embroidery work on scarfs, tablecloths and on pillow sheets from which they earn hardly Rs.400-Rs. 500 (USD 4-5) in a month because they are living in a small settlement and women have very few livelihood opportunities in rural areas. Sodhi and her daughter also pick cotton during the summer harvest season; she is involved in other farm labours. Sodhi has one goat of her own and one goat on a sharing basis. The value of her own goat is about Rs. 15,000 (USD 150). She has one acre of land (that belonged to her late husband) that she had given to her brother for cultivation. In return, she gets some share of the crops grown (usually wheat and cotton). Sodhi estimates that she gets about 450 kg of wheat and 400 kg of cotton every year from her brother. The total value of Sodhi's share is about Rs. 30,000 (USD 300). She said, "I store wheat for household consumption, and sell cotton for cash. "

Sodhi estimates that her monthly household expenditure on food items is about Rs. 3,000-4,000 (USD 30-40). Most of this money is spent on vegetables, cooking oil, sugar, tea, etc. Sodhi said, "We live a very simple life. Rarely do we buy new clothes; we just wash and wear old clothes. We eat season vegetables as they are relatively cheap, potatoes and pulses. Sometimes our neighbours share butter milk with us. Meat and fruits are luxuries. At times of grave situations or when we run out of money or food then my brother helps a little bit."

Sodhi's family does not avail any natural resource except one acre of agricultural land, one goat and fuel wood (Cottonwood) which is free of cost. Sodhi collects cottonwood at the end of cotton crop season from her own agricultural farm land and saves enough so she can use that for cooking. Her household uses the goat milk to make one or two times tea a day.

Shodhi's household does not have an easy access to health care, sanitation, transportation and communication facilities due to inadequate income. In case of any emergency the household borrows the vehicle from neighbours to reach the desired location but mainly they use public transport like bus or rickshaw (Chingchi) for travel.

According to NRSP's Scorecard Survey 2016 and as noticed during the visit to her home, Sodhi hardly owns any of the basic life amenities. She lives a life without the facility of refrigerator, cell phone, television and vehicle. She cooks food in mud stove using cotton sticks which she collects after the cotton harvest.

Sodhi's village is deprived of public services like government health facility. In cases of health issues, her household visits the nearby Karachi Hotel Stop where there are some private clinics manned by unqualified persons.

Sodhi is trying her best to make life comfortable for her children but as a single parent and due to poverty she is unable to meet all their needs. Her sons are studying at a nearby government primary school, but her daughter Sahib Zadi is illiterate due to cultural norm of not sending girls to school. Also, there is a reluctance to send girls to mixed primary schools. Sodhi said, “In our village, there is a socio-culture norm of not sending girls to school so I did not send my daughter to school.”



Figure 1: Sodhi with her children

There is trust and social bonding between the villagers and help each other in emergency situations, however, due to some of the personal desires and issues people also use to squabble with each other. Sodhi said, “My sisters in law squabble with me. They want me to leave so that they can have my house which my father in law gave to me.”

The biggest worry that Sodhi now has is about the marriage of her daughter, who is now 15 years old. According to local social norms, girls should be married by this age. Being a widow, Sodhi is worried about finding a suitable groom for her daughter and then finding the money for the marriage.

6. MS. SODHI JOIN'S SUCCESS PROGRAMME AS CO MEMBER

Social mobilisation process was initiated in settlement Dildar Solungi, union council Masoo Bozdar, district Tando Allahyar by National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in January 2017. Social Organizer visited the village and conducted programme introduction with the community and with their consent on 16th January, 2017 Community Organisation Dildar Solungi-1 was formed by NRSP. The members elected Zainab as CO President and Bachul as CO Manager. Sodhi also joined CO as a member with a hope that her family will have some benefits.

Sodhi said, "I don't know about the importance of this community organisation because this is a new experience for me but there is hope that this will be beneficial for us in future, with the help of this CO we can work together for the betterment of our households and for our whole community."

7. CONCLUSION

This study has attempted to demonstrate the household's economic and social position based on education, skills, occupation, income, household assets and health status. The study has revealed that her family is living life below-subsistence conditions, and her husband suffered from mental disorders and later committed suicide. Her sources of income are inadequate to meet the basic material needs of the family. Her daughter has skill of embroidery work though they are not economically active because they do not have access to market and urban areas to display and sell their products. The natural resource base for the family is insufficient. Though she is not fully aware of the social mobilization process but Sodhi has a hope that with NRSP's support she will be able to improve her poverty status.