











What are LSOs?

LSOs or Local Support Organisations are central to the 'Social Mobilisation' approach of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). In a bid to reduce poverty and empower marginalised people (especially women), the RSPs under SUCCESS, mobilise rural women into a three-tiered structure, which consists of Community Organisations (COs) - neighbourhood level community groups, Village Organisations (VOs) - village level federations of COs, and LSOs - union council level federations of VOs. LSOs are able to carry out community-led development at a much greater level due to the advantage they gain from numbers. As the tertiary tier, LSOs are also uniquely able to develop linkages with government and non-government organisations, donor agencies and the private sector.

LSO Initiatives

LSO Keenjhar, Sujawal

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| <p>District</p>  <p>Sujawal</p> | <p>Union Council</p>  <p>Keenjhar</p> | <p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>2016</p> | <p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>2,722</p> | <p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,876</p> | <p>Coverage</p>  <p>69%</p> |
| | <p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>68 (all women's)</p> | <p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>9 (all women's)</p> | <p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>27 (all women)</p> | <p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>15 (all women)</p> | |

(LSO Profile as of March 2018)

LSO Keenjhar from District Sujawal was formed in October 2016 by 1,876 member households organised in 68 COs and 9 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Keenjhar are planning and executing development activities both on self-help basis as well as in collaboration with Government agencies. EU funded SUCCESS programme is empowering rural women in Sindh through realising the power they gain from collective action. The organised women now are gaining awareness about their rights and making the service providers accountable and also taking self-initiatives to improve their lives.

Tree Plantation in Courtyards and Village Surroundings

There are empty spaces in the courtyards of the village houses as well as in the village surroundings. When left unattended, these spaces are dry and barren. During summer season, dwellers lose shade and cooling effect due to absence of plants and trees and suffer from extremely hot temperature. During their interaction with the SUCCESS staff in meetings and trainings, the women activists of the LSO Keenjhar learnt about the benefits of planting trees in



Village women are planting trees in their courtyard and in open spaces around the village

these places. "We had never thought that beside providing shade in summer season and some fuel wood, good quality trees can be used as timber for construction of houses and animal sheds. Good quality trees can also become valuable assets in future and we can earn money by selling them" said a woman LSO leader. However, planting trees is not so easy. Finding quality trees on an affordable price and then protecting the plants from domestic animals are two



main challenges in the way to successful plantation. Not sure how to overcome these challenges, village people usually give up and do not try to grow new trees. The LSO activists, therefore, started raising awareness about tree plantation. They also guided the interested members to buy rooted plants from government and private nurseries and plant them in their courtyards or empty spaces around their houses. They also made the members aware about a number of saplings grown in wild areas during the monsoon season that can be planted. Easy to do, some members uprooted these saplings and re-planted them in their courtyards as well as other empty spaces in the village vicinity. This initiative led to plantation of 255 new trees during the last monsoon season in 2017. Encouraged by this, the LSO is planning to plant 4,500 trees during the current monsoon season (2018). "We can easily plant 400 to 500 trees in each village of the UC" observed the LSO President and Manager.

Improving Quality of Education through Positive Social Influence and Accountability

In the villages of Muhammad Khan Palipoto and Hashim Khan, the Government Primary Schools were non-functional because the teachers of these schools were not performing their duties regularly. These absentee teachers would come only for few days in a month, at the times of six monthly and annual exams or when they learnt that some government officials were visiting the schools. Poor students, both girls and boys, would come to school only to play some games in the school compound and go back home without learning a word. These teachers belonged to influential families and nobody thought to complain against them fearing social repercussions. Prior to getting organised in the folds of COs, VOs and LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS programme, the local people were not empowered enough to say anything to these teachers. However, after the women were organised under the three tier community institutions, they not only realised their due role in tackling such issues, but also decided to take such elements to task. When the issue was raised in the respective CO meetings, the COs brought this into the notice of the LSO via their respective VOs. Following this, the woman President and Manager of the LSO walked into the schools and warned the teachers that their absenteeism would not be tolerated anymore, and that if they did not attend their schools regularly, the LSO will put up a former complain against them with the Education Department. This warning was so effective that teachers started to come to their schools regularly and in time. As a result of this LSO's positive social influence and accountability, the students' attendance and their quality of education has improved.

Enrolment of Out of School Children in Schools

Government Primary Schools are present in almost all villages of UC Keenjhar. However, some parents were not sending some or all of their school aged girls and boys into schools. The LSO discussed the matter in its meeting and resolved to ensure admission of all out of school children into schools. In consultation with its member VOs, the LSO first identified out of school children in each village. The women leaders of the VOs then personally visited the parents of

these children, listened to their point of view for not sending their children to school and then convinced them to enrol them into any nearby school. So far, 38 girls and boys have been enrolled in schools by the LSO.

Supporting Government Health Department in Immunisation of Children

Government Health Department Sindh has been implementing immunisation programmes for pregnant women and children all over the Sindh. Due to limited outreach, the government vaccination teams were unable to cover the entire population. A significant number of pregnant women and children were left out in every vaccination round. The organised communities under COs, VOs and LSOs play an important role in increasing vaccination coverage. The Health Department, therefore, sought the support of these community institutions for mass mobilisation for vaccination. The Community Resource Persons (CRPs) conducted awareness sessions in each CO on the importance of vaccination. The LSO, through its VO and CO leaders informed all households about the vaccination date and ensured that all pregnant women and children in their villages were vaccinated in each and every round. During the last calendar year, 780 children and 585 pregnant women received vaccination in the UC due to the efforts of the organised communities. The Community Institutions continue with their role of bridging the gap in services of the health department.



A CRP delivering an awareness raising session in a CO meeting



"This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union"

Reported by: Mohammad Ali Azizi, RSPN
 Edited By: Abdul Rehman Cheema, RSPN
 Acknowledgement: Nazar Joyo, NRSP
 Designed & Printed by: Masha ALLAH Printers

THE LSO INITIATIVES SERIES IS BY THE RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK



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