







Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills Programme Launching Ceremony Report September 9, 2021







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Acronyms

ALNS	Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CI	Community Institution
CIF	Community Investment Fund
СО	Community Organization
Col	Colonel
ED	Executive Director
EU	European Union
IGG	Income Generating Grant
IRM	Institute of Rural Management
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LSO	Local Support Organization
MER	Monitoring, Evaluation & Research
MIS	Management Information System
MV	Momentum ventures (Pvt ltd)
NCHD	National Commission for Human Development
NRSP	National Rural Support Programme
PINS	Programme for Improved Nutrition
RSPN	Rural Support Programme Network
SEF	Sindh Education Foundation
SELD	School Education and Literacy Department
SRSO	Sindh Rural Support Organization
SUCCESS	Sindh Union Council & Community Strengthening Support
TRDP	Thardeep Rural Development Programme
TVST	Technical & Vocational Skill Training
VO	Village Organization
ZABIST	Zulfqar Ali Butto Institute of Science and Technology

Background

Thardeep Rural Development Programme is a not-for-profit integrated rural development programme working with poor and vulnerable segments of society particularly women in the most deprived and remote areas of Sindh.

TRDP is implementing the EU funded SUCCESS programme in Dadu and Jamshoro Districts. The Programme is aimed for Women Empowerment and enhancing income generation at household level to reduce poverty and local development.

TRDP has mobilised more than 187,644 households, organised within community institutions (CO/VO/LSO) through women representation from the household.

When TRDP started to provide financial support (IGG/CIF) and Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST), it realized and learned that without Literacy, the financial support and provision of skills are less effective and less productive.



The Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills component was added to SUCCESS Programme after the revision and recommended to European Union. The add up of this component will provide the women community members the skills which include, basic calculation, writing and reading skills. The adult literacy and numeracy will help them influence gender roles positively and facilitate them in mainstreaming their role for social and economic empowerment and in finding employment and becoming self-employed. This will also support in ensuring the sustainability of the community institutions.

The literacy empowers individuals and improves their lives by expanding their capabilities to choose a kind of life they can value. Literacy is an integral part of education and lifelong learning premised on humanism as defined by the Sustainable Development Goal 4. TRDP in collaboration of National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) through Momentum ventures (Pvt ltd) with support of School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), will provide skills in literacy and numeracy to the 19,200 rural women in Dadu and Jamshoro districts in first phase till June 2022 to compliment Sindh Government's efforts to reduce Illiteracy in Dadu and Jamshoro districts. It was the first time that International, Federal, Provincial and local stakeholders joined hands for this noble cause to accomplish result oriented achievement.

On the eve of World Literacy Day, the Rural Women Literacy Program was launched and first Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skill centre was inaugurated at village Karo Khan Palari, Union Council Monder, Taluka Thano Bula Khan, District Jamshoro.

The Event Proceedings:

Ms. Saba Mehmood, Director, Literacy and Non Formal Education Directorate, and chief guest of the ceremony congratulated TRDP for initiating much needed but yet less focused adult literacy program. She said that we have developed curriculum with the help of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) approved by Sindh Government, we will support this programme, whatever will be possible for her department.

Col (R) Ameerullah Marwat, Chairman, National Commission on Human Development (NCHD) said that TRDP only infrastructure development would not help in catching up with overall development indicators. He appreciated TRDP for undertaking very important and challenging task of adult literacy of rural women.

Dr. Khadim Lakhair, Member, TRDP Board of Directors said that TRDP had initiated its work from arid zone of Sindh where other organizations are reluctant to operate due to hard conditions. Although, the communities living in these areas are more marginalized and vulnerable to work for their wellbeing and development. With the passage of time, we have realized that education is the key for effectiveness of other interventions.

Allah Nawaz Samoo, CEO, TRDP after dwelling upon historical development trajectory in the area, He said that education, skills and attitudes are interlinked and these are collateral for development. He indicated that during last 5 years the figures of Literacy are remained stagnant, we need to explore the root causes and solutions for it. He said that starting of adult literacy initiative through community organization would be first step in right direction and this would contribute to most cherished aim of empowering rural women through socioeconomic participation. He emphasized on significance of adult literacy and said that today's driver of development is communication & technology and education is key for women empowerment.

Mr. Abid Gill. Deputy Chief Advisor, JICA said that they are technically supporting Sindh government in development of curriculums, Management Information System and other tools for the drive to increase literacy rate in rural areas, especially for women. He also specified that Pakistan is second last country of Afghanistan in Asia for literacy rate figures. He applicated TRDP for initiating such programme in rural areas.

Mr. Saleem, ED Momentum said that together we have to change the mind –set that spending on Adult literacy is Wastage of resources. He said that adult literacy will bring positive results and this will ease rural women heading the community institutions. He requested to members of community institutions to come forward and join the drive of Adult Literacy to make a real change in society and empower themselves.

Ms. Saima, Chairperson of the local support organization welcomed guests and participants for coming to this remote village. She shared the difficulties being faced by them during account opening of their community institutions as most of them use the thumb impressions instead of sign and she said with excitement that the add up of adult literacy in SUCCESS programme was much needed and this will enable the thousands of our sisters to read and write and will also support them to move on the path of prosperity.

Mr. Abdul Qadir Iqbalani, Assistant Commissioner, while appreciating TRDP's work under SUCEESS Programme, said that he was very happy to see formation of CIs and they have progressed a lot. the SUCCESS program has well served the purpose of reducing the poverty and making the CIs self-

sufficient. He added that the female adult literacy would better meet the needs of the women who could not get opportunity to get education. He ended his brief speech by congratulating TRDP and all who have collaborated to launch the Adult literacy and Numeracy Skills program.

The other speakers include women representatives from community organizations, Mr. Fazal Ali Saadi, Program Manager SUCCESS RSPN, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jamro, Program Manager NRSP, Mr. Jamal

Shoro, Program Manager, SRSO, Assistant Commissioner, Taluka Thana Bula Khan, Mr. Mehtab Memon, Deputy Director Social Welfare Department, and NCHD officials.

The participants were comprised of the women community institutions representatives, senior officials of Government Departments, representatives from SUCCESS implementing partners including SRSO, NRSP, RSPN, representatives from NCHD, JICA, MV, ZABIST ZABTECH, IRM, SEF, civil society organizations and independent media individuals.

The honourable guests inaugurated the newly established centre by the ribbon cutting ceremony and met with learners enrolled in the centre. The inauguration was followed by the tree plantation, the guests planted trees in courtyard of the centre. The honourable guest was presented TRDP Momento and Traditional Gifts of Sindhi 'Ajrak' were also offered followed by Luncheon.

The event has received massive coverage in print, electronic and social media.

The event venue was adorned with banners, standees and stalls. The rural women artisan trained under Technical & Vocational Skills Training Component has set the stalls displayed eye-catching artificial jewellery, handicraft and other straw made articles including hotpots and other utensils.

TRDP Program for Improved Nutrition (PINS) team has also set a stall of local nutrient products which was adroitly displayed including dried vegetables, moringa seed, moringa powder moringa capsules, organic manure and organic pesticides made from neem tree leaves.

The guests and participants while visiting stalls took keen interest in stalls, took details from the rural women artisan at stalls, marvelled to see the exquisite art and handicrafts at the display.

Glimpses of ALNS Launching Ceremony



Guests on stage



Social Distancing



Rural craft display set



Tree Plantation



Ribbon Cutting



Traditional Gift



ALNS Center



Participants

Print Media Coverage of ALNS Launching Ceremony











Marwat inaugurates literacy centre in TBK

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Adult Literacy Centre established by Thardeep Rural Development Programme inaugurated

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