

# Empowering Women Through Biogas Facility

A success story of a women availing biogas  
as a basic domestic facility



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## Beneficiary's Profile

District Wise Map of Punjab (Pakistan)

### General Info\*

**Beneficiary** Shahnaz iftikhar

**Ages** 25 years

**Occupation** Housewife

**Village** 151-NB

**Tehsil** Silanwali

**District** Sargodha

**Province** Punjab, Pakistan



### Biogas Plant Info\*

Sr.	Type	Size	Date of Construction	Plant I.D
1	GGC	10m <sup>3</sup>	30-07-2011	SGD-P000300

\*: As on 13-02-2014

Nature has created man and women in equal provision of rights, privileges and responsibilities, but the situations and facts are quite against the natural law. It is often seen that the women have with more responsibilities than their rights and privileges. They are so engaged in their domestic chores that they have no time to take care for themselves. Consequently they remain less healthy, weak and frustrated than the men. Not only physical but most of the social disadvantages to women are also caused by the same man-made and imbalance distribution of rights and responsibilities. In their parents' home they are given less important than their male siblings, they are given domestic responsibilities in a very early age, they lose their right to education and are married in early age. After that they resume their life in their *piya's* (husband's house) with enhanced burden of responsibilities where the life gets worst with the responsibilities of children, catering, hosting and a lot of other domestic responsibilities.

The entire penalties get double for the women in the rural family setup. Apart of the lot of domestic responsibilities the ill-fated rural women are living their lives without basic facilities. They have to fetch water for the entire family for drinking, cooking, and washing, provide firewood or make dung cakes for cooking and heating, look after their children, wash their clothes, clean up the entire house, maintain the black-smoking kitchen, facilitate their entire family in other desired takes, and even to work in farms and fields as well. These tiring chores and responsibilities kill their time to take care of their own self. This led them to get trapped in various physical and psycho-social problems.

Shahnaz Iftikhar was one of the unlucky women from Chak 151-NB, Sargodha, who had been facing the same problems since her childhood. She led her childhood and youth years in the tough and tiring rural domestic life. She wasted the golden time of her life in accomplishing all her housekeeping and kitchen responsibilities instead of getting education and developing holistically. She had to collect firewood or make dung cakes for cooking food. Her entire childhood and youth went in serving her parents and siblings. As a result she got no time to go to school or take care of her own self. She was very disappointed and felt frustrated reflecting upon herself that she left uneducated. After that the poor girl got married at the age of 19. Her responsibilities got double after her marriage. As she gave birth to two girls during the first three years of her marriage life, she became under more the responsibilities as a mother, wife, a daughter-in-law and many other joint family relations, at the same time. The most frustrating thing according to her was, working most of the day in the kitchen. She had to cook food for the family and make meals for her young kids as well. She used to burn woods and dung cakes for cooking. For several times she got sick due to soot of the firewood and dung cakes. She often got severe burns while handling the burning woods and used to spend her day in the untidy, smoky and unhygienic kitchen. She got very short times out of the kitchen to spend with her kids. She thought that she would never get a happy and relaxed time in her life.



The place where Shahnaz used to go for cutting firewood before biogas plant

But at last her prayers were heard. Her father-in-law; Mr. Khan observed the situation that Shahnaz was could not give proper time to her kids due to her busyness in the kitchen. Being head of the family he was concerned about Shahnaz's health who was suffering with smoke-induced diseases, and for his grandchildren who were mostly unattended by their mother. So he started searching the solution to provide relief to her daughter-in-law and for a better motherhood for her grandchildren's' brought up.



Biogas Plant constructed outside Shahnaz's home



Shahnaz and her father-in-law feeding dung and water in biogas plant

Shahnaz's father-in-law was a farmer and had good relations with the Government Agriculture Officer in his area. He shared the issue with the officer. The officer knew about the Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme (PDBP) that provides technical and financial support in constructing biogas plants for providing fueling facility and alternate energy solution at the domestic level. The officer told him about the benefits of biogas and shared address of the PDBP office. Mr. Khan approached PDBP and constructed a 10m<sup>3</sup> biogas plant in the outer area of his house.

This biogas plant brought a turning point in Shahnaz's life. Her life is totally changed now. Instead of hard efforts of cutting and collecting firewood and making dung cakes, she comfortably helps her father-in-law in feeding the plant with animal dung and water that decomposes and produces a fueling gas for kitchen use. Shahnaz says that now she has no worries of working in the kitchen as there is no soot and allergic smoke, she hasn't to put hands in the dung for making cakes or to do hard efforts for collecting firewood. She says that the pots and kitchen accessories are totally neat and clean because there is no more black smoke. The kitchen is neat, clean and hygienic and the ready-fuel has saved a lot of time.



Neat and clean kitchen after provision of biogas in Shahnaz's house

She says that that the happiest thing is that she has much time to give her children. As she saves time, she supports her girl's education and sends her school regularly. By doing this she feels that her own frustration of being uneducated has vanished away. She tells that she and her daughters are healthier than before because she gets comfortable time to take care of her daughters and for her own self as well.

Now she considers herself one of the luckiest women in the village and enjoying comforting and happy moments in her married family life.



Shahnaz working making tea on biogas

Shahnaz thanks to PDBP and wishes her neighboring women to have this privilege also. She shares the benefits of biogas with them and motivates them to construct a biogas plant in their houses.