



LSO Initiatives

Local Support Organisation Noor

District:	Ghotki
Union Council:	Daharki
Date of Formation:	June 18, 2011
Total Households in Union Council:	4,689
Organised Households:	3,926
Coverage:	84%
No of Community Organisations (COs):	208 (All women)
Number of Village Organisations (VOs):	27 (All women)
No of General Body Members:	27 (All women)
No of Executive Committee Members:	7 (All women)

Seminar to Raise Awareness for Girls' Education

Owing to socio-cultural reasons, girls' education was a very low priority for parents living in the union council of Daharki. In a bid to address this problem, LSO Noor decided to hold a seminar on the occasion of its third anniversary on the 18th of June, 2013 to raise awareness among the locals, so that they would send their daughters to school. The LSO collected PKR 25,000 in cash donations from its members to make the arrangements

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 mobilise rural communities 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 VO. 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, donors agencies and the private sector.

for the event, at the local Boys' High School. Around 800 men and women attended the seminar. Using tableaux, speeches and banners, they informed parents about the importance of girls' education. To emphasise their point, they made comparisons between educated and uneducated women to indicate the difference that education makes in their personal traits, social status, income-earning capacity and ability to raise healthy and educated children. A large number of parents who attended the seminar now send their girls to school.

Accountability of Local Government Staff

In most of the villages of the union council, the Municipal Government has appointed sweepers who clean the streets and sewerage lines. However, none of them were performing their duties, which led to an accumulation of garbage and overflowing drainage lines, thus making the villages extremely dirty and unsanitary. The LSO leaders discussed the issue in their monthly meeting and lodged a complaint with the local Town Committee. The Town Committee immediately took action and ensured that sweepers cleaned the villages at least twice a week. The garbage is deposited at collection points from where it is collected by the TMA staff. As a result of this initiative, the hygiene conditions of the villages have significantly improved.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Located in Daharki is the chemical fertiliser factory of Engro Chemicals, which engages in corporate social responsibility (CSR). The LSO has effectively made use of Engro's CSR initiatives to maximise resources for the locals. Below are two such examples:

1. Mosquitos abound in the area due to paddy cultivation, and collection of rain water in low lying areas. Therefore, malaria is also common especially during the summer, with some villages more affected than others. Engro has established a mobile dispensary that has a malaria unit. The LSO decided to contact the Engro mobile dispensary for help. They submitted a resolution to the mobile dispensary to get pesticide sprays for the mosquitos in the four most affected villages. The malaria unit of the mobile dispensary fumigated these villages three times with intervals. Moreover, the unit pumped out the stagnant waste water which had collected in the drainage system. As a result of these efforts, the number of mosquitos reduced drastically in these villages.
2. There are government school buildings in the villages, but due to absenteeism of teachers, who belong to influential families, the quality of education is very poor. The LSO requested Engro for provision of trained teachers for three girls' and two boys' primary schools. Engro provided five teachers, one for each school from their Welfare School System. Due to these teachers, 305 girls and 70 boys enrolled in these schools.

Large Scale Plantation of Forest Trees

Forests provide substantial opportunities for income generation to the small farmers of the area. They sell the wood of matured trees, and use twigs to make different types of baskets. However, due to a lack of materials, tree plantation was very limited. To encourage the planting of trees, the LSO contacted the government nurseries and arranged various forest plants for interested farmers. Moreover, the LSO collected demands for seeds of forest plants through its VOs, purchased the required seeds from the market and sold them to the interested families at a modest profit. The LSO earned a profit of PKR 2,000 from this social enterprise, in addition to providing quality seeds for plantation to community members. This simple initiative will result into hundreds of thousands of forest trees in the area in the near future, which not only generate significant income for the farmers but will also have positive impacts on the climate and environment.



Construction of LSO Office and Training Centre

The LSO is making efforts to become a financially viable organisation. As part of this effort, the LSO decided to construct an office building and a training centre to save money on rent payments and earn a profit by renting out the training center for use by other organisations. An LSO member has donated a five Marla plot to the LSO worth approximately PKR 400,000, on which the building will be constructed using donations generated by Community Organisation members. So far, they have collected PKR 85,000 and have started the construction of one room. They are confident that they will raise the required PKR 900,000 to build the rest of the building very soon.

