

## Komak Project - Success Story - Khairpur Health Care and Water – the story of Sahib Khan

Sahib Khan, a resident of Kanan Narejo, union council Agra, in district Khairpur was one of the selected beneficiaries to receive three Komak interventions. The 25 year old, also a farmer lived with his mother, brother, wife and son in his house, which was now in ruins. As Sahib Khan's primary source of income came from farming, he encountered a huge loss when all his fields got destroyed due to the flood.



Figure 1: Sahib Khan, beneficiary of  
Kanan Narejo

During the floods, prices of general commodities increased leaving Sahib Khan helpless as he could not even provide the most basic necessities to support his family. As the cotton fields were damaged, he focused on growing wheat and sugar cane as an alternative crop. But, problems grew further as the prices of fertilizer and seeds (which he bought from Razi Daro, 5 km from his village) also doubled the amount, this made it more difficult for him get his fields ready in time for the harvesting season in April to earn more wages in order to sustain his family. Banks refused to provide a loan but luck came in the form of the 'watan card' and Rs. 20, 000 was a sufficient amount for him to buy seeds. The only livestock remaining was a Buffalo and he used grass or chop up as animal feed. He said he could not afford to buy the animal supplement as it was very expensive.

He was grateful to the Komak team and DFID for providing the hygiene kit and water kit as previously, both men and women had faced adverse hygiene issues due to lack of clean water and latrines, resorting to absence of personal and environmental hygiene. He said his family had to face severe medical problems, especially Diarrhoea due to impure tap/handpump water and usage of flood water. Additional health concerns in his village were skin allergies, water borne diseases, high fever, vomiting, Dengue, Hepatitis B&C and Malaria. There was availability of medicines but they were expensive and not of very good quality. The hospitals lacked basic facilities and most didn't have good doctors. Hospitals were more than 10km away from the village, and in some cases he had to walk 35 km to the Tehsil hospital for treatment.



Figure 2: Beneficiaries of Kanan Narejo

Sahib Khan said that after the hygiene sessions were conducted, his wife and him were very happy and touched as it was very useful in reducing medical problems being faced by their family and the community in general. Skin allergies had reduced drastically after the usage of Dettol and soap and their child was not feeling ill anymore. Sahib Khan was consistent in following hygiene practices and made sure his family followed it on a regular basis.

He claimed the water kit was very useful as the steel buckets would last a very long time and the coolers were helpful as they did not have any other container to store or carry water in. He stated that help came much later from other donors but SRSO was the first to provide them with basic necessities such as water and hygiene products, food ration, tents, handpumps and mosquito nets.