



ASSOCIATION FOR WATER, APPLIED EDUCATION & RENEWABLE ENERGY

SOLUTIONS WITHIN

ANNUAL REFLECTION

2014



Acknowledgement

This publication has been developed with the input and contribution of AWARE Program team and Right Holders of operational area.

The contents of this publication have been consolidated by Gulsher Panhwar with support and guidance of Ali Akbar (ED AWARE) and team.

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Copies printed:

Published in September, 2015

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AWARE Profile

We are...

Association for Water Applied Education and Renewable (AWARE), was formed in 2003 and registered under Societies Act 1860, in February 2005. AWARE is ever cautious and keeps a bird's eye over all emerging issues, concerns, problems and difficulties. AWARE has vast ideas to ease opportunities and find out the ways and means to develop the target area.

VISION

To be an endeavoring and an effective contributor to the establishment of a society, where people determine their choices in life and influence the direction of change.

MISSION

To organize, aware, strengthen and empower the marginalized sections of population to enable them for influencing social, political and economic policies and decision-making process, which affects their lives. Establish a society based on social justice, equity, equality and human dignity

GOALS

- *To organize different sections of population in order to involve the community in: identifying, understanding the community needs; identification, development, management and judicious use of natural resources particularly Renewable Energy resources; and development, management, improvement and maintenance of public facilities*
- *To organize seminars, workshops, training courses, lectures, walks rallies, celebrations, demonstrations, trips etc. in order to raise socio-economic, socio-political awareness among all the segments of society.*
- *To provide the people suitable economic and research activities to build their development, management and leadership capacities/capabilities and to improve/develop their occupational/professional skills so as to strengthen their economic position.*
- *To provide the people educational, healthcare, recreational facilities and cultural activities for their personality building*





Message from ED, AWARE

AWARE started its work by conducting extensive study on underground water in Thar and this revealed many horrific facts, including high contents of fluoride in underground water, rendering majority of the resident of Village Samo Rind crippled for life time. Other bitter facts related to water included on average 3 persons from a family with two animals requiring three to four hours per day to fetch water from deep and risky wells in Tharparkar. Since its formation AWARE continues with its strategy of rising issues and presenting solutions of the issues after research and introducing innovations. As majority of Thari people spend productive hours in fetching water, the exploiting powers rest assured that the people have no time in thinking, reclaiming their rights, questioning the duty bears and protesting for their rights.

Seminally if quality education is not in place, the unlettered and gullible generations would be in no position to comprehend complex nexus of ruling clique and thus would not be in position to challenge the exploiting powers.

Also due to unavailability of health facilities, not responding to drought for long term sustainable solutions and all other issues, the ruling elite nexus would love to demand funds in the name of deprived people of backward areas and easily get away in appropriating the funds for water, health and other basic needs.

AWARE's philosophy, Mission and Strategies are geared to dispel the widely hold pessimistic opinion that there is no alternative, cost-effective solution to the problems. Instead of treading traditional path of focusing on deep wells only, AWARE successfully experienced and applied the solar water pumps for extracting water, creating convenience in schools etc. and presented assorted uses of this environment friendly technology to be adopted by government to save wastage of huge amount of funds on extremely expensive and largely failed oil feed RO plants.

In education, instead of opening schools, AWARE contributed in improving government schools.

In year 2014 AWARE continued with its tradition of setting exempla's, breaking Myths, standing with people, advocating the rights of the marginalized people and finding solutions within the system and available resources. Annual Report 2014 tries to present work of AWARE in Tharparkar and Umerkot districts. I thank honorable BODs chairman and esteemed Members, AWARE team and all friends, supporters and communities with whom AWARE is working for contributing in bringing better change in society.

Best Regards

Ali Akbar Rahimoo

ED, AWARE

SECTORS AND SUB-SECTORS OF INTEREST

A. Renewable Resources:

Water, Solar Energy, Wind and Bio mass

B. Agriculture:

Land, Water, Crop production, Marketing etc., Forestry and Pasture Development, Biodiversity, Animal Husbandry/ Livestock, Horticulture

C. Resources & Potential:

Natural resources, Material resources, Human resources

D. Social Services:

Primary Healthcare, Education, Infra-structure, Disaster Management, Welfare and Charity, Income Generation (micro credit / enterprises)

E. Fundamental Human Rights, Political Education & Gender Struggle:

Awareness, Advocacy, Education, Gender sensitization, Political Education, Campaign Mobilization, Networking

COMPOSITION

Seven elected BODs with experience and expertise in Development Sector, plan all strategies, policies, monitor and mentor the field from time to time. Executive Director is responsible for implementation of programs, projects and monitoring with a Team of qualified staff.

AWARE have well equipped Offices at Chachro, and at Umerkot District headquarter

Membership in NGO's Networks

FANSA Pakistan, Marooara Coordination Council District Tharparkar, National Humanitarian Network Pakistan

Formal collaboration

Action Aid, Oxfam Novib, Plan International, United, Energy Pakistan (UEP), Association for, Development of Pakistan (ADP, USAID/TAF, Church World Service (CWS), Water Aid, W.H.O., UNICEF, Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO), Musim Charity (MC) UK, Lodhi Foundation, Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET), Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR) Karachi, Dow Medical University Karachi

Linkages developed/information sharing with National Organizations:

IDSP Pakistan Quetta, CWS, AEDB Pakistan, NCRD Islamabad, DCHD Lahore, SPARC, ShirkatGah & NGORC Karachi

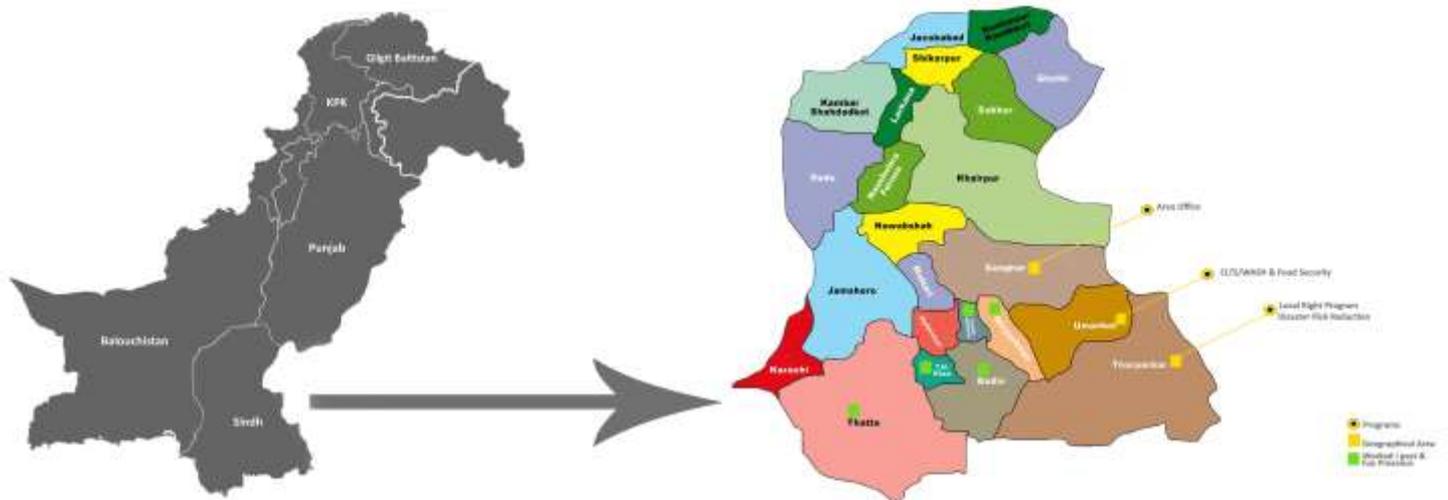
Marooara Network Tharparkar, NHN Sindh chapter, National Alliance on Climate Change led, Awal Taleem – Education First Network, Green Directory of Sustainable Pakistan by LEAD Pakistan ,

Linkages Developed/Information sharing with International Organizations/Networks:

Energy for all, Change Makers, Earth Day Network Development Aid Idealist, Resource Manag Energy , STOP TB Partnership, Europenet, Sexual Harassment Watch member as Gender Friendly Organization, NGOS.pk network, Dry Net (working on UNFCCC), FANSA, League for Pastoral People, Germany, ICARDA

OPERATIONAL AREA

Umerkot, Tharparkar, MirpurKhas, Sanghar, Tando Allhayar District of Sindh, Pakistan



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thar faced one of the worst droughts in 2014. AWARE contacted and facilitated visits of Local, National and International Media, resultantly the government started providing health and food support. AWARE provided food and warm articles to children and lactating women which government failed to provide.

In 2 UCs of Umerkot District food insecurity was dealt through intercropping and kitchen gardening.

Total sanitation initiative was undertaken with especial focus on ending the epidemic of open defecation through effective awareness rising and social mobilization in three UCs of Umerkot District

AWARE also took up Thar coal issue in media and during Public hearing on EIA, vigorously defended local rights and raised objections over environmental repercussions. People's voice, jointly launched by AWARE and conscious people of Chachro continued to raised different issues, in 2014, besides many other achievements, it resulted in removing encroachment on minority graveyard and prayer place.

Through introduction of innovative green model schools, Child learning centers, capacity building of teachers, SMCs and VECs as well as coordination within concerned players there was marked difference in government schools situated in AWARE's focused area. In a single village the merging of 62 schools in one school and removing of a head teacher who misappropriated SMCs fund also created hope among the rightholders that wrongdoers can be held accountable. In health, missing gape were filled by providing transportation and supporting staff to Immunization teams, helping in reaching out to each child in 2 UCs of Chachro by AWARE. The diseases taken as attack from heavenly powers got cured and superstitious impression were dispelled.

Solar technology was introduced with innovations and value addition for drinking water, schools improvement and kitchen gardening. Reflect circles continue to play vital role in community awareness, village based research, conflict resolution and human rights education centers.

Annual reports 2014 tries to bring in view these and other efforts of AWARE team but the achievements are not without challenges .the exploiting powers with vested interest are not happy with AWARE standing with marginalized. Some official quarters did not cooperate and attempted to create barriers. But at the same time AWARE gets cooperation and moral support from good number of conscious persons and most importantly the support and well wishes of the marginalized segments of people and dedication of AWARE team, AWARE would continue to work with same spirit.



Intercropping

In Union council Khejrari, 15 KMs from District head-quarter Umerkot, food security was glaring problem. According to baseline survey by AWARE 18 % population had poor food consumption, 19 percent borderline and acceptable was 0. The project set targets of building the capacity of 120 farmers on intercropping and enhancing the skills of 40 women through pickle making and packing

Out of 20 farmers 5 most active ones were selected through demo plots, and support was provided to them for leveling their land and purchasing and installation of Motor pumps for drip irrigation

13,030

Fruit plants were transplanted by farmers

1650

Right Holders became aware of importance of Inter-Cropping and value chain

40

Women got training on Pickle making and packing

AWARE-OXFAM helped me in realizing my dream

"I always dreamt to have a small orchard but AWARE helped me to realize my dream of helping me in planting fruit trees and growing vegetables. To meet water shortage in summer I assigned responsibility to a

man to take care of the underground water pump, water the fruit plants and protect these. Thanks to AWARE and OXFAM Novib who helped me to realize my dream

"Ramzan Panhwar, a small farmer from village Faqeer Muhammad Arain"



Happy and healthy

"Due to meager income, all Household income needs were hard to meet. We cut the expenses on daily food"
AWARE provided fruit plants and also suggested establishing kitchen garden on hand pump waste water. Before this our family ate the meal with chilies causing abdomen ache but now our family and other villagers taste fresh vegetables the extra income from selling the vegetable in market helps us in meeting small needs, we are thankful to AWARE and OXFAM for this. WashonoBheel of Village Khajo Bheel in UC khejrari

Kitchen gardening

AWARE encouraged and provided needed small support to communities to develop kitchen gardening

In 4 UCs of Umerkot, where AWARE worked on intercropping and WASH, the kitchen gardens have been developed on waste/spare water from hand pumps provided by AWARE to basically meet the drinking water needs.

In Chachro Taluka of Tharparkar District, the people grew vegetables on solar pumps provided for drinking water and for other needs by AWARE.

These kitchen gardens are helping in meeting needs of the villages and even surrounding villages. The fresh vegetable meets the dietary needs and addresses the food insecurity issue in these villages. This strategy of using spare water for growing vegetables has good potential to be introduced in other parts facing food insecurity. Through kitchen garden organic cultivation is promoted and is free from any pesticides, fertilizers etc.



Challenges:



Although some farmers, not included in project focused area, after observing other farmer's plant fruit trees came with request that they should also be provided with fruit plants but after getting these they cared little and a good number of plants AWARE provided from its own resources withered away.

After observing lush green fields, orchards and vegetable farms through exposure visits in other parts of Sindh, the farmers from project focused area came back excited to develop their farms on the same pattern. But due to water shortage they could not do so and they were disappointed a bit

Due to low and somewhere no rain the fruit plants has not grown on their full due to water shortage and hot winds

Results

- Small Farmers empowered with information and skills.
- AWARE team met targets and exceeded in achieving some of the targets.
- Farmers freed from their dependency and exploitation by big landlords and money lenders.
- Women empowered with skills on farming and income generation.
- Practice and culture of intercropping promoted.
- On some extent Food insecurity addressed in project focused area.
- The successful model fit for replication.
- Farmers helped in getting better price for their products by facilitating easy access to market.
- Farmers organized by facilitating in forming their farmer unions.
- Farmers club provided platform to farmers for discussing and finding solution of their problems.
- 50 farmers learnt best practices in agriculture through exposure visits on other farms in Sindh.
- Signed MOU with Agriculture Extension Department, Umerkot for awareness, research, briefing farmers on farms, announcing opening of 03 farmer field schools.
- Tenants families benefited of getting vegetables from targeted farmers due culture of sharing things among communities.
- Applying water conservation methods helped in optimal use of water and using saved water for other immediate needs or extra cultivation.
- Farmers knowledge increased that soil having different nutrients need no fertilizers etc , thus resources saved after soil testing.
- Drip irrigation introduced and promoted.



Project Inception workshop.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124772527@N06/sets/72157646404584333/>

Baseline Survey activities:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124772527@N06/sets/72157646047128678/>

Food Consumption card.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124772527@N06/sets/72157646356892575/>

Kitchen gardening.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124772527@N06/sets/72157645942728568/>

Exposure visit for farmers

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124772527@N06/sets/72157648627759479/>

Fruit plant Distribution

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124772527@N06/sets/72157648542894707/>

Celebrated world kitchen garden day 2014.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124772527@N06/sets/72157646382072177/>

Celebrated world food day,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124772527@N06/sets/72157648383232027>

Some of the links of the coverage through media can be accessed through below links:

Daily Times: <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/02-May-2014/umerkot-among-top-5-food-insecure-districts-of-pakistan>

Daily Pioneer <http://dailymessenger.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/e-Paper/English/02-05-2014/jpg/page3.JPG>

Lahore times. <http://lhrtimes.com/2014/05/01/food-insecurity-umerkot/>

Daily Regional Times <http://regionaltimes.com/02may2014/4.jpg>

Daily Messenger <http://dailymessenger.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/e-Paper/English/02-05-2014/jpg/page3.JPG>

The Baluchistan Times <http://www.balochistanexpressquetta.com/2014/05/02/umerkot-among-five-top-food-insecure-districts-of-pakistan/>

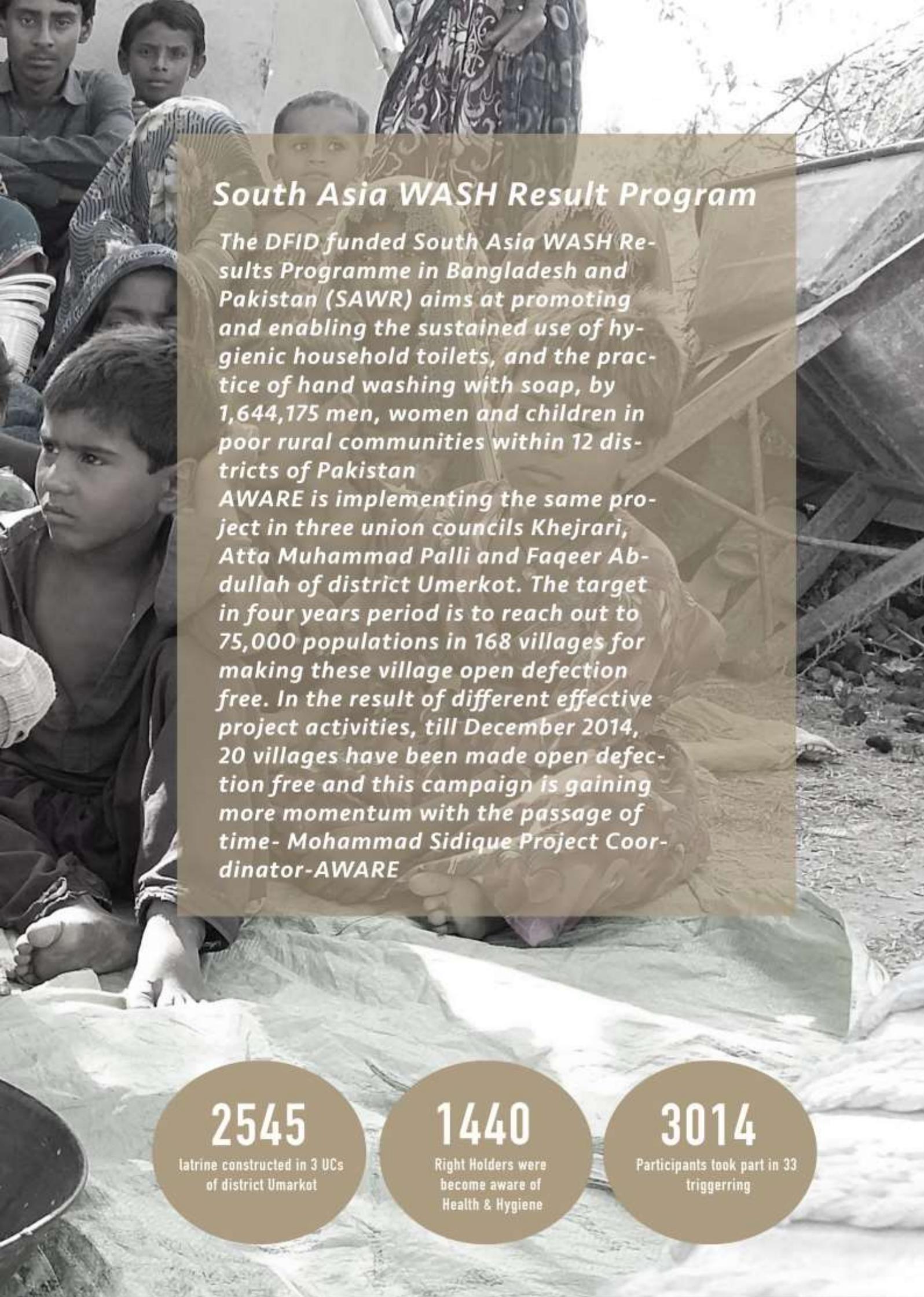
News clippings on AWARE's FB account with

comments <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=288076534702646&set=a.125197470990554.24167.100005009049443&type=1&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=288091471367819&set=a.125197470990554.24167.100005009049443&type=1&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10203556296697692&set=a.1583226430241.86787.1523140853&type=1&theater>





South Asia WASH Result Program

The DFID funded South Asia WASH Results Programme in Bangladesh and Pakistan (SAWR) aims at promoting and enabling the sustained use of hygienic household toilets, and the practice of hand washing with soap, by 1,644,175 men, women and children in poor rural communities within 12 districts of Pakistan

AWARE is implementing the same project in three union councils Khejrari, Atta Muhammad Palli and Faqeer Abdullah of district Umerkot. The target in four years period is to reach out to 75,000 populations in 168 villages for making these village open defecation free. In the result of different effective project activities, till December 2014, 20 villages have been made open defecation free and this campaign is gaining more momentum with the passage of time- Mohammad Sidique Project Coordinator-AWARE

2545

latrine constructed in 3 UCs of district Umarkot

1440

Right Holders were become aware of Health & Hygiene

3014

Participants took part in 33 triggering

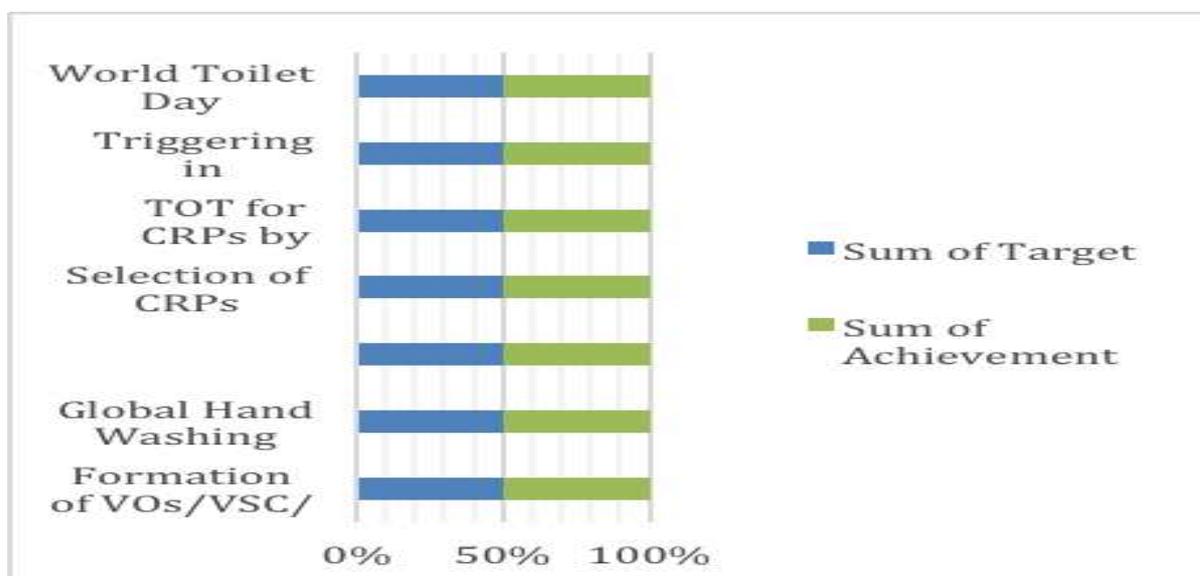
South Asia WASH Results Program with Plan International

- 166 villages profile have been filled till December 2014.
- Village Committees formed and capacitated.
- Community Resource Person (CRP) is also a valuable addition to these communities as CRP and social mobilization teams' remains in close contact with CRPs.
- Three key hygiene messages conveyed through hygiene sessions.
- Hand washing facilities being constructed with the latrines to



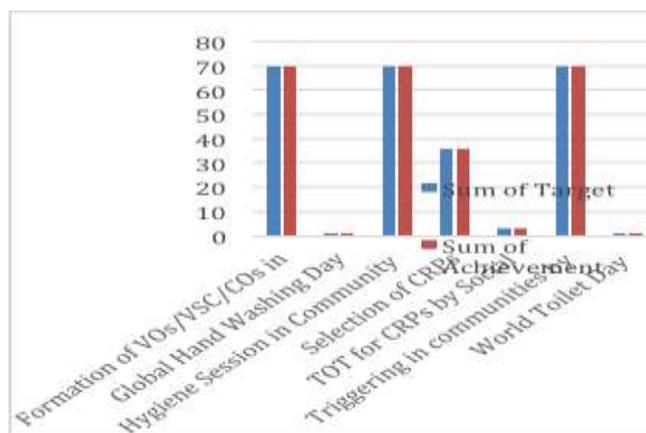
ensure the proper hand washing practices.

- School WASH Clubs are another Value added initiative to engage school children assumed as best promoter of any idea for adopting the hygienic practices.
- Created District WASH Core Group to align the activities from different organizations on the WASH including government institutes.



Challenges:

Although latrines has been constructed but their usage is still a challenge (only a small number of these are being fully used) as centuries old habits take good degree of time and constant efforts to change. The project team is conducting follow-up field visits and it is hoped that there would be change in the old habit of the communities and one fine day the dream of total sanitation would be realized.



Links of Pictures:

Village profiling

activities, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/128192446@N07/sets/72157647824453889/>

Triggering

activities, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/128192446@N07/sets/72157647825416690/>

Global Hand washing day celebrated,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/128192446@N07/sets/72157648371206260/>

CRPs training at AWARE office Umerkot,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/128192446@N07/sets/72157649089862179/>

World toilet day celebrated,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/128192446@N07/sets/72157648960963387/>

Hand Pump installed in targeted areas,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124749128@N03/sets/72157655906015435>

Cathy Stephen visit SAWRP intervention area,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124749128@N03/sets/72157652617797931>

Date: 15-5-2014

Day: Thursday

Saira, may

Naila: Yes, h

Asiq. Please, g

Naila. Here it

have some rice ple

e it is.

e me water.

EDUCATION

230 children were direct beneficiaries through child centered and child friendly education activities through 11 CLRCs.

23 VEC members after availing training and participating in coordination meetings played key role in improving education in their respective villages.

In the result of teachers day celebration, with participation of 130 persons including teaches and school children, 4 absentee teachers became punctual.

In the result of celebration of enrolment week, 344 out of school children got enrolled

Through teacher and SMCs trainings with 38 participants, education standards improved and school management improved considerably.

23 school children from Thar, most of whom never visited any town or city, learned about city life and love to education after availing exposure visits to Hyderabad, the second largest and historical city of Sindh province.

AWARE is working to bring improvement in education, focusing on 17 village of 2 UCs of Taluka Chachro in District Tharparkar. AWARE's focus is to work alongside government and try to meet missing needs. Teachers, parents, school children and government officials are involved through different activities and with the coordination meetings with the stakeholders, the proper use of SMC funds, increasing enrolment and decreasing dropout help in quality education. Formation of village Education committees and their capacity building, trainings of SMCs and teachers, celebration of different education related international days, regular meeting with children, monitoring by civil society and journalists and other such activities

helped in activating the education structure in 17 villages, promoting child centered, and community owned education. AWARE with concentrated efforts has proved that government schools can be improved. In year 2014, four more CLRCs (called locally *Sachal balak sikhia markaz*, named after and dedicated to renowned educationalist of Tharparkar sain sachal Janjhi) were added which have become popular child friendly model in the area. With participation of wide range of social and official actors under Media's eye, the education initiative of AWARE is being appreciated and recommended for replication by communities and visiting guests. The AWARE's initiative has healthy impact not only in focused working area but its refreshing impact is felt in entire district and beyond.



Following links may provide more details about the education initiatives by AWARE in 2014
VEC Meeting

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157649137568554>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157647712277770>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157651015094577>

CLRC

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157654838061676>

Teachers Training on Pedagogical Skills

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157652970563854>

Enrollment Week Calibration

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157652971965764>

Exposure Visit

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157654893343960>

SMC Training

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157655715650486>



EMPOWERMENT

Throughout 2014, 1366 persons, most of them from far-flung areas of Thar came to participate and present their problems in 12 people's voice forums in front of media, civil society and government officials.

8 main issues got resolved after raised in the people's voice and highlighted through media.

230 women participated in reflect circles regular meeting discussing their issue, learning literary and numeracy skills and finding solution of their individual and collective issues.

14 local journalists got training on modern reporting skills and are in better position to highlight the issues of Thar more strongly.

287 community members from 17 village level CBOs were approached, who gave their input for future planning for 2015.

18 persons including representatives from Targeted villages as well as active civil society activists participated in participatory review and reflection process at Taluka level and extended their suggestion for AWARE planning for year 2015.

1366

Right holders raised voice
in front of Press Club

230

Men and women
are being educated
in 11 Reflect Circles
in Thar

735

People became aware
of Women and Child Right
in Thar

AWAM Jo AWAZ -A Voice for voice less, a social innovation by AWARE

With decaying governance systems and abandoning of the marginalized citizen completely by powers that are, the people of Chachro found themselves hapless. Conscious personalities of Chachro, suggested for arranging such a forum regularly where people can air their grievances and get their problems highlighted. Thus the idea of people's voice was made reality by AWARE. The first forum was arranged on 5th January 2014 in front of press club Chachro where only 5 persons sat in open sky in front of press club Chachro to protest overall problems of Taluka Chachro. The forum was named *Awam-jo-awaz* (people's voice) slowly and gradually people realized that they have at least a platform and many vocal souls to show solidarity. AWARE provided only technical support and remained low profile. This strategy was geared to dispel the impression that this forum represents one organization. Media, Human rights activists, columnists, and representatives from civil society organizations and from various other walks of life are especially invited to hear the problems of the people and



pool their ideas and efforts by highlighting these issues vigorously for solutions.

AWARE collected 1000 cell phone numbers of the contact persons from all 16 UCs of Taluka Chachro to send Invitation messages. In Chachro town media persons and other civil society actors are reached out physically and are handed over the invitation card. The civil society activists, officials and media from surrounding towns and suburbs are also invited.

On average, 90 to 100 Participants sit under a big tent where the stage secretary selected from the active citizen present in the forum, goes to the each participant to list their problems and the names of the speaker's problems or listed in order i.e. water, education, encroachment etc. some guests take notes and volunteers take photos and video recording.

At the end press release is distributed among present journalists and also sent to the media outlets and to the op-ed page writers.

In reporting period, 12 Voice of people forums were held where along with joint issues, people also raised their individual grievances. 8 collective issues got resolved after being presented in people's voice forum and highlighted through media. AWARE team has succeeded in building the confidence of people. The forum is regularly held. One people's voice was held a day before Eid (religious celebration) and AWARE dedicated team and its volunteers as well as well-wishers remained engaged in arrangement of the forum. This way people have strong trust in the team

and forum and this is working well as only vibrant voice of the under privileged people. This forum is greasing the governance system at local level on some extent as powers that are, have become cautious that if they did not respond to the grievances of the people or do injustice the people will go at the forum and raise their voice against them.



Following table shows issues discussed some achievements
People's voice

Date	Main issue	No of participants	Overall Achievements
January 5,2014	concerns over Thar coal project	43	-Encroachment removed from minority graveyard -Vaccination in done -Mobile health teams arrived and provided services -Village Samoon Rind got two RO Plants, -62 primary schools merged into 5 main schools in village Waori Dora -Case of misusing SMC funds resolved -The forum is sending jitters in power corridors as people remain united, organized and demanding their rights steadfastly
February 5, 2014	land encroachments in Chachro	89	
March 5, 2014	Livestock losses and drought situation.	93	
April 5, 2014	upgrading Taluka Chachro to District	129	
May 5, 2014	Land grabbing in Chachro and relief situation in drought	101	
Jun 5, 2014	deforestation and education	153	
July 05, 2014	Thar drought policy and climate change	121	
August 05,2014	Suicide in Thar due to poverty and land grabbing	107	
Sep 05, 2014	Continuous third drought in thar	95	
Oct 05,2014	Tharparkar drought condition, highlighting of livestock dead in drought,	139	
Nov 05,2014	Tharparkar drought condition, suicide cases	135	
Dec 05,2014	loss of livestock, corruption in wheat distribution, demanding to create livelihood	161	
Total		1366	

1.2 Reflection for rights

Through these centers people learn host of skills ranging from simple arithmetic to critical thinking, persevering their local cultural assets and symbols, find out the reasons of their backwardness and head towards solutions by themselves. In 2014, with the addition of 2 more reflect circle, their total reached 11. During 2014, 3 Reflect circles remained most active and best performing, 5 were found at middle level performance and 3 are still in the process of catching up with rest. The reflect circles have become center of all village activities, either it be reading, finding solution of individual and collective problems and responding to sudden situation. The reflect centers played central role in collective thinking and collective response. AWARE arranged capacity building trainings for facilitators of reflect circle where they got their facilitating skill enhanced and updated.

Usually women in Thar are expected to don't speak or speak in very low tone. This tradition is harsher in non-Muslim communities. Daughter-in-law observes purdah (veil) from her

Innovation at reflect circles

AWARE focal person hands over paper sheets to the facilitators of reflect circles for group work. The focal person came to an innovative idea that the activity of drawing should be linked to their life work like quilt making. Or any kind of embroidery or brocade, the focal person shared this idea with the facilitators of the reflect circles. The women took keen interest in this activity and experienced with different innovative designing on paper sheet, which they were unable to try on cloth as they feared it will spoil the cloth, this way they (women artisan) have introduced many innovations in designs of their quilt and embroidery work as well they are enjoying aesthetic fondness by experiencing with new designs

father-in-law and don't speaks to him or in front him. But during reflect circle meeting women are speaking in the presence of men from their family and village and their under confidence is giving way to the full confidence. The women besides discussing collective issues are also finding the platform of reflect circle to share their personal issues with each other, this helps in their socialization.

Finding education very important



during their adult literacy classes at reflect circles, women members of reflect circles have become more cautious and concerned about the

education of their children particularly girls and they ensure that their children are punctual to school and do their homework regularly.



Beneficiaries of reflect circles activities in 2014

S#	Facilitator	Name of center	Village	Total Member	Timing	Holiday
1	Kewal Ram	Thar Murk	Saranghiar	21	1.00pm to 3.00pm	Saturday & Sunday
2	Tagomal	RoshnMustq bal	Charnor	28	5.30pm to 7.30pm	Saturday & Sunday
3	Raichand	AsaniMarka z	Pithe je Dhani	21	4.00pm to 6.00pm	Friday & Saturday
4	Roshan	SadaBhar	Khan M Rind	17	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Friday & Saturday
5	Sadan	Thar Sujag	Adam Rind	13	8.00am to 10.00am	Saturday & Sunday
6	Shantee	Orat Sujag	Manjhi Rind	24	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Saturday & Sunday
7	Jaganmal	GulshanMar kaz	Bangul Rind	21	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Saturday & Sunday
8	Lelaram	SadaBhar	Umar Unar	17	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Saturday & Sunday
9	Haji Jearo	Thar Sujag	Nasrullah sand	35	3.00 to 5.00pm	Sunday & Monday
10	Zareena	Sangi Sujag	Rawtsar	21	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Saturday & Sunday
11	Sonari	Goth Sudhar	Samoon Rind	12	11.00am to 1.00pm	Saturday & Sunday

4.3 Helped for robust reporting

Being most backward and remote tehsil of Sindh, journalist in Chachro lacked modern reporting skills and were mostly unaware about the new trends and reporting techniques. Thus the pressing issue of Thar particularly of Chachro tehsil remained unreported or underreported.

AWARE arranged capacity building training of local journalists to enhance their skills and familiarize them with development in the field of media, shared with them about the modern skills and techniques for highlighting the issues of Thar more effectively. The focused topic of training was climate change and global warming, senior trainer journalists shared with the local journalists that you must link the local issues with developments at national and international level. The trainers went into field along with local trainee journalists and imparted practical skills how to collect data, record fact and report effectively. The training helped the journalists immensely to understand the context of the issues and report effectively.

4.4 Inclusive and accountable

To be accountable to the right holders and seek their input for next year's planning, in 2014, AWARE team went to focused villages and shared AWARE's budget with the right holders as well as got suggestions for planning for year

2015. 287 community members from 17 village level CBOs participated; they reviewed the AWARE performance during 2014 and gave their input for future planning for 2015. In their suggestions they said that education must be strengthened and instead of focusing more on Early Girls Child Marriages, the right holders suggested to focus on DRR or sustainable agriculture.

AWARE shared the suggestions from village level with the stakeholders at Taluka level. 18 persons including representatives from targeted villages as well as active civil society activists participated in participatory review and reflection process at Taluka level and extended their suggestion for AWARE planning for year 2015. The stakeholders at Taluka level meeting appreciated AWARE work in 17-targeted villages but suggested that AWARE must have visibility in Chachro town by establishing any institution or any such presence. Besides continue to work in 17 targeted villages, the participants at Taluka level review and reflect meeting also suggested that AWARE must extend its work to other villages of Tharparkar.

AWARE believes and practice the same that the right holders has right to know how the resources meant to be spent for their wellbeing are spent and also involves the right holders in future planning.

Beneficiaries from PRRP at 17 villages

Village	Men	Women	Children	Total
Saringhiar	11	7	3	21
Soji jo tar	5	1	2	8
Adam Rind	9	5	2	16
Khan M Rind	10	3	4	17
Bangal Rind	13	9	3	25
Pithijidhani	11	6	2	19
MureedKhaskheli	13	0	5	18
Manjhi Rind	12	9	2	23
Sevo Charan	12	6	3	21
Charnor	11	13	5	29
Samo Rind	9	4	2	15
Jan M Samo	10	0	3	13
UmerUnar	9	5	2	16
Nasrullah sand	5	17	5	27
Seenhara	5	0	2	7
Tardos	9	0	3	12
Total	154	85	48	287

For further details following links can be availed

“Call to address socio-economic issues of Thar” a report on AWAM Jo AWAZ, published in DAWN on August 07 2014 in <http://www.dawn.com/news/1123698>

“Voice of people jolts the state holders” News Lens Pakistan online news paper published a detailed report on “Awam Jo Awaz” on June 16, 2015 by AB Arisar <http://newslens.pk/voice-people-jolts-state-actors/>

Raheem Dad Rind a villager of Samoon Rind continued to protest at the platform of Awam Jo Awaz for providing safe drinking water to his village where his co villagers got crippled for consuming water containing high fluoride.

https://www.facebook.com/peoplesvoicechachro/videos/594246353997562/?video_source=pages_finch_thumbnail_video

A video documentary on land grabbing on graveyard of Hindu community by land

mafia in 2014, community protested and raised their voice at “Awam Jo Awaz” <https://vimeo.com/116947231>

“Protest held against occupation of Hindu Community's graveyard and mismanagement in wheat distribution” reported by Regional times on May 06, 2014

<https://www.facebook.com/peoplesvoicechachro/photos/a.592312327524298.1073741828.591503894271808/638890119533185/?type=1&theater>

All news updates, links, photos & videos can be seen on Facebook page of each gathering “Awam Jo Awaz”

<https://www.facebook.com/peoplesvoicechachro>

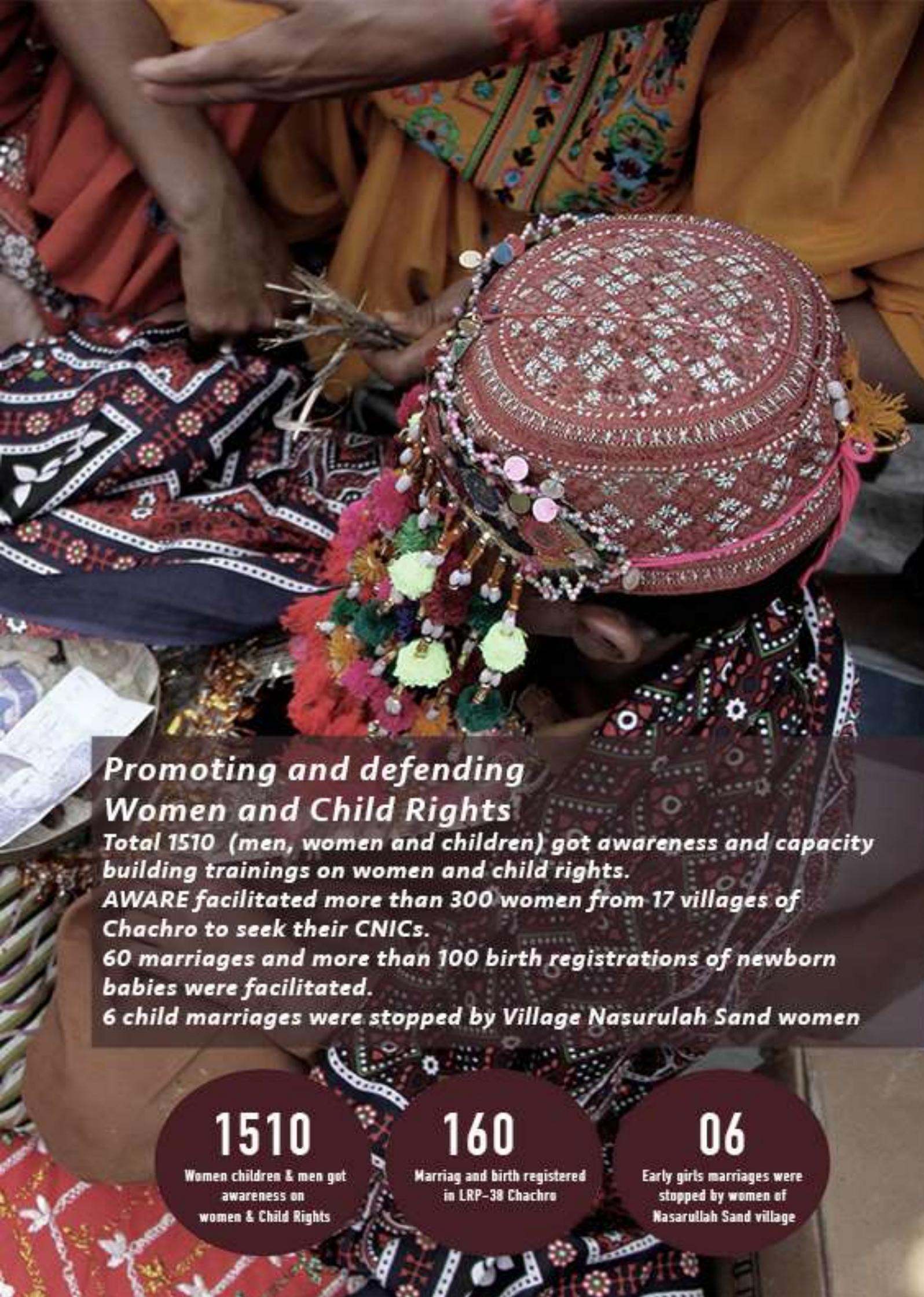
Hands on training for Journalists

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.419558304887801.1073741903.100005009049443&type=3

Journalist Visit

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157649952290946>





Promoting and defending Women and Child Rights

Total 1510 (men, women and children) got awareness and capacity building trainings on women and child rights.

AWARE facilitated more than 300 women from 17 villages of Chachro to seek their CNICs.

60 marriages and more than 100 birth registrations of newborn babies were facilitated.

6 child marriages were stopped by Village Nasurullah Sand women

1510

Women children & men got awareness on women & Child Rights

160

Marriage and birth registered in LRP-38 Chachro

06

Early girls marriages were stopped by women of Nasarullah Sand village

Sans identity sans rights

Majority of women in Thar don't have CNICs. In majority of non-Muslim communities' intermarriages are usually arranged with their far away relatives. In these communities seeking CNICs become very tough exercise. Due to unavailability of CNICs, Marriages and Birth Registration documents, women remain deprived from their legal identity and from availing property rights and benefit from government social security schemes and drought related support. AWARE sought help from concerned line departments and helped more than 300 women from 17 villages of Chachro to seek their CNICs. AWARE also helped in birth registration and marriages registration in 17 targeted villages. 60 marriages registration and more than 100 birth registrations of new born babies were facilitated. AWARE took forms from NADRA, went into field, got these forms filled and submitted in the NADRA office. AWARE paid registration fee because due to extreme poverty, the couples and parents were unable pay the fee to get their marriages and newborn babies registered.

Challenging anti child practices

Another main women rights issue is rampant child marriages. In 2014, AWARE built capacity of women groups, journalists, Nikahkhawans and raised awareness through theater tool in 17 villages. 1510 men women and children got benefit from training and awareness initiatives by AWARE. Through AWARE's and other civil society organizations strong advocacy campaign and media reporting, child marriage restraint act 2013 was passed in April 2014 by Sindh

Assembly. And after passage of law, AWARE is working for strengthening referral mechanism and implementation of the law. A number of child marriages have been preempted by people involved thorough AWARE child marriages campaign. (6 child marriages has been stopped by Reflect Circles from Village Nasurulah Sand)

The best practice to preempt child marriages and successful experience to involve key concerned stakeholders for decreasing early girls child marriages and developed community mechanism for preventing curse of early girls child marriages was shared at provincial dialogues in Karachi on 26, September 2014 where Fatima sand of village Nasurullah sand shared how they checked 6 child marriages in their village. AWARE also used effective theater tool to aware the community and key stakeholders on consequence of early child marriages and law against early girl's child marriages.

At provincial level women right holders shared their experience before the civil society activists particularly women, Action Aid Karachi team, media, government officials and alliances on child marriages.

The participants emphasized about the implementation of the law as according to most of the participants, particularly right holders shared that majority of the police officials at police station level don't know about the newly passed law and whenever the activists report about the planed early marriages to police, they did not take action saying they don't know about the law. The secretary women development assured the participants that after passage of law, we have held meeting with IG police and

women development ministry is going to have meeting with district police for the implementation of the law.

In the follow up Rubina QaimKhani, provincial minister women development Sindh visited Tharparkar and held meeting with civil society organizations, social welfare department and legislators from

Tharparkar and informed that law against child marriages has been passed and requested the participants to cooperate and play respective role in implementation of the new law. AWARE actively participated in the meeting and thanked honorable minister for coming to Tharparkar

Table showing Women and child rights beneficiaries

Activities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Linkages meeting with journalists, Religious scholars, Doctors, Bar Associations and likeminded NGOs	14	15	0	29
Awareness through reflect circle	111	117	3	231
Training on consequences of early child marriages for community representatives	16	6	0	22
International girls day celebration	8	57	207	272
Orientation meeting with journalists and other stakeholders on EGM	23	0	0	23
Provincial Dialogue on Child Rights Restraints Act 2013	16	13	0	29
Women day celebration	5	68	2	75
Birth and Marriage registration	17	23	83	123
17 awareness theater shows on ECM	231	338	166	735

Links for more detail:

Provincial Level Dialogue @ Karachi on Status of Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 and Its Implementation Mechanism" organized by AWARE with support of Action Aid @ Karachi on Sept 26, 2014
https://www.facebook.com/aware.tha.r/media_set?set=a.350233738486925.1073741870.100005009049443&type=3

Women Day
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127897861@N05/sets/72157654885620659>

Kitchen Gardening. Available resources utilization really makes people to survive with dignity and pride. With support of Action Aid (in villages where already solar pumps are

installed) kitchen gardening is done to grow vegetables on drip system for better utilization of water for growing food - self reliance instead of waiting for relief goods. These kitchen gardening systems are owned and managed by women.
https://www.facebook.com/aware.tha.r/media_set?set=a.461365957373702.1073741935.100005009049443&type=3

Organic Life, Vegetables grown in Thar on ground water pumped out through solar pumps and windmills installed by AWARE
https://www.facebook.com/aware.tha.r/media_set?set=a.252002678310032.1073741829.100005009049443&type=3

Health contribution

10000 children are vaccinated in every quarter of the year where AWARE provides vehicles with fuel and supporting field staff to help the government vaccinators to reach each and every child. Medical treatment and free medicines were provided to 2665 patients through medical camps. Incubator provided by AWARE to Taluka hospital Chachro is helping in saving several infants lives.



Responded with timely relief (medical camps)

Access to public health facilities in backward area like Thar is very hard. Due to remoteness of scattered villages, majority lacking road facilities face utmost difficulties in availing services from public health facilities in town or major cities. The BHUs are few and are not working properly. Another problem in Tharparkar is extreme weather; in summer, the area experiences extreme heat and the

winter is mostly extremely cold. During winter of 2014 people particularly children were afflicted with cold related and skin diseases. Due to drought conditions people's income sources were on lowest ebb and to respond to this situation AWARE hired doctors, got medicine and arranged medical camps in 17 focused villages. People got timely medical relief and saved from suffering and loans on interest to avail expensive and faraway medical treatment.

Ensuring immunization

Due to limited staff and difficult access to remote village's government department faced difficulties to reach all children for immunization. AWARE readily provided vehicles with fuel and its field staff for facilitating the government staff to ensure vaccination to each child in 2 UCs of Taluka Chachro villages. Through this contribution of AWARE, 10000 children are vaccinated every year quarterly

Ambulance for Emergency

Taluka Hospital Chachro, meant to provide health services to people of second largest Taluka of Sindh which has not yet got official status of Taluka Hospital but officially it is working as rural health center. 2 ambulances in hospital were/are expensive in fuel charges and often having faults did not work properly.

Links for more details:

Mobile Health Camps in Thar

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.319202801590019.1073741843.100005009049443&type=3

Incubator for THQ Chachro District Tharparkar

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=284139118429721&set=pb.100005009049443.207520000.1436694496.&type=3&theater>https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.428063914037240.1073741906.100005009049443&type=3

Incubator for THQ Chachro District Tharparkar - on request of AWARE donated by Muslim Charity

And patients faced untold difficulties in case of emergency. AWARE provided Ambulance with 24 hours service on reasonable charges. And poor patient and their attendants are availing the service with thankful sigh of relief.

Incubator to save underweight infants

Due to lack of nutrition in Thar, the mothers often give birth to underweight babies. In the absence of incubator in Taluka Hospital Chachro as well any private health facilities, there was not a single incubator available. In 2014 AWARE provided incubator to the Taluka hospital Chachro which has helped in saving several precious lives of little angle like beings.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=284139118429721&set=pb.100005009049443.->

[2207520000.1436694496.&type=3&theater](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2207520000.1436694496.&type=3&theater)

Health Camps in Thar

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.319202801590019.1073741843.100005009049443&type=3

Ambulance

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.428063914037240.1073741906.100005009049443&type=3



A close-up photograph of a hand cupping water flowing from a metal pipe. The background is a blurred rural landscape with dry vegetation. The image is used as a background for an infographic.

Offering Solar Solutions

807 households with 2750 population are benefiting from solar run piped water with assorted other facilities.

11 solar pumps provide 2640317 liters water per month used for drinking water needs of 11 villages.

Through kitchen gardening population of 11 villages is overcoming food insecurity and nutrition deficiency.

Children previously engaged in extracting water from deep wells

11

Solar Water Pump with Meter system are installed in villages of Chachro, Thar

2750

Population are benefiting from Solar run piped water

17

Women are contributing to produce vegetables from kitchen gardening by drip system

With several solutions

Solar water pumps helped women, men and children to get rid from time consuming, back breaking toil of extracting water by using animal and human strength from highly deep wells. And water provided for WASH needs helped in increasing enrolment and retention of school children, particularly girls. Waste water from household use helped in kitchen gardening and meeting dietary needs. AWARE set example of cost-effective, environment friendly solar pumps for government and other institutions to replicate.

Government gave in

Due to setting example of cost-effective environmental friendly solar pumps and AWARE's advocacy for solar for water coupled with peoples protesting campaign for demanding from government to meet their announcement of providing solar run RO Plants materialized in 2014 and government provided 2 solar run RO plants in village Samo Rind whose residents were rendered crippled due to consuming underground water with high fluoride contents.

Water for vegetables

Waste water from solar driven pumps has been harvested by residents of 6 villages. This has met the dietary needs and addressed food security in the villages on some extent.

Main problem of Thar is water. People were using animal and spent lot of time in extracting water from deep wells. Introduction of Solar technology made it easier. We developed and successfully introduced solar solution for easy access to water. The water management committees has been formed and made responsible to operation of the solar water pumps. Nominal charges are charged to ensure optimal use of water and have amount for repair of the system and pay the salary of the operator - Jan Mohammad Samoon (RO AWARE)

Easy accesses to piped water

Thanks to solar driven water pumps, people of the villages have easy access to piped water in their homes but some area of cities and towns in Sindh are compelled to avail water from tankers and water drawers.

Challenge:

During 2014 AWARE faced challenges of management, some HHs situated at lower level were using more water and even wasting it. And those situated on more elevated level were getting less water but each HH has to pay Rs300 per month.

Innovation

AWARE devised strategy and introduced innovation of water metering. AWARE installed water meters at the sources to each household with nominal charges of 10 paisa per litter. this way all HHs including those in low laying level who previously wasted lot of water started using water optimally. This innovation of AWARE has been introduced for the first time in Tharparkar, and Sindh province

Following table shows village wise beneficiaries of the solar support

S#	Village Name	H.H	Population
1	Nasrullah Sand	350	750
4	Rawat Sar	375	1550
5	Manjhi Rind	37	159
6	Khan Muhammad Rind	45	291
7	Tardos 1(Saeedullah Paro)	37	235
8	ZulifquarDars	41	263
9	Charnor(Sallu Ram Paro)	58	391

For further details see following links

solar pump - water supply with metering in Thar

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.461054754071489.1073741934.100005009049443&type=3

One more solar pump - water supply with metering in Thar (Daily Awami Awaz)

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=482798975230400&set=ms.c.eJw1y7kRACAMA7CNOMfkcFzDDigVCEXq9UvnHBg~_HGDipxFPdu1fUO2DyIXn6wNAG~-~-.bps.a.461054754071489.1073741934.100005009049443&type=1&theater

Innovative Water Supply Scheme (AWARE Facebook Page)

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.315712611939038.1073741841.100005009049443&type=3

Solar Powered Water Pump in Village Nasrullah Sand, Tharparkar

<http://develloppakistan.org/solar->

[powered-water-pumps-in-village-nasrullah-sand-tharparkar/](#)

Solar-powered water pump inaugurated in Thar (The News)

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-3-262320-Solar-powered-water-pump-inaugurated-in-Thar>

Karwan Development Foundation (KDF) supported project (AWARE FB Page)

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=386358238207808&set=ms.c.eJw9ztENwEAIAtCNGhVF3X~_x5qzXzxcKiCKiDGWSJfVgrO2V7tlrcw1XdV1nHkvd~_~_4x~_fv00dtv4~_S4RnyWm2Pstg4bK9acfZHd74zzL4MvqX4m9A~-~-.bps.a.343766302467002.1073741865.100005009049443&type=1&theater

Solar powered water pumps installation by philanthropists (led by Mr. Ahmad Jawaid) in Chachro area - AWARE model is highly being appreciated and replicated quickly (AWARE Face Book page)

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.409568549220110.1073741894.100005009049443&type=3





Green Model School Program

266 school children get basic facilities in attractive school environment. Tree plantation helps in environmental protection and greenery. With WASH facilities, health of children improved and particularly girl's enrolment increased. In 2014, 8 death were caused by piyan bala, a snake in Thar which is believed to pour poison in mouth of sleeping person in darkness but did not attack the person sleeping under light at night time. The solar lights saved people from fear of the snake. AWARE has presented green school model to be replicated by others.

266

School Children getting
basic facilities in Thar

06

Government Schools
are converted into
Green Model School

In 2014, 6 more government schools were converted into green model schools in AWARE's focused villages. Under this project separate solar system was installed specifically for the school for running computers by children and use solar generated electricity for school purposes. A rechargeable lamp was given to each student to come and charge the light in the school and take back the light to be used in home for study and illuminating the homes with condition that only those children will be given lights who attended the school regularly. The water connection from separate solar water pumps to households was also preconditioned with the school attendance of the children

Under this project WASH facilities for the children to meet another pressing need especially for girls was provided. School gets easy access to relatively clean water through solar water pumps.

8.1 helped in improving education

In 2014, 6 government schools were converted into green schools with solar system was installed for charging solar lights for lighting homes. This initiative is meant to create interest among the children and parents and keep the children retention in school.

8.2 Meet need of nebulizer

Before introducing of solar energy, due to unavailability of electricity the doctors could not use nebulizer for asthma, and other respiratory and chest infection diseases among children and parents have to travel to Chachro, cover long distance and incur huge expenses from their meager income to avail the facility. With the installation of Solar for school children the facility also helped in many ways

Green model School is an innovative initiative of AWARE to create child friendly environment for children, to provide water and electricity and WASH facilities as well as tree plantation in schools.

Majority of the villages of Thar don't have electricity and water is drawn from deep, polluted wells. School dropouts and low attendance was major issue in the area. As children have to help their parents in extracting water from deep wells using animals. Thus they were unable to attend school on time and concentrate on their education.

Besides providing solar water pump to emolliate the suffering. AWARE provided solar for school which helped immensely in improvement of in health and education of the villages where solar system were provided- **Rizwana Baloch Social Organizer-AWARE**

including doctor using nebulizer for providing service at local level to alleviate suffering and save the time and income of the mostly poorest parents of the child patients.

8.3 Safe light during celebrations

During marriages and other local celebrations villagers used lamps on kerosene oil for lighting which has dim light, produced smoke with foul smell and having risk of catching fire. The solar charged lights are also used for lighting during marriages and other such ceremonies without producing any foul smell or risk of catching fire.

8.4 Secure from snake

A kind of snake locally called *piyan bala* is believed to pour poison in the

mouth of sleeping persons in darkness. In year 2014, eight deaths were caused by piyanbala in Tharparkar. The solar lights have also mitigated the threat and fear of piyan bala because it attacks sleeping persons in darkness and wherever solar lights are available, there is no

incident of piyan bala and people sleep soundly without fear. Even the families from the village or even from other nearby villages where solar light is not available rush to the huts of the relatives to sleep during night under the solar lights to save themselves from deadly piyan bala.

Overall results from solar water pumps and green model schools

Formed village committee for proper operation and maintenance according TORs signed.

Solar water matters installed

Affordable and mutually agreed charges for the repair and sustainability of the project.

Select operator for running of the facility smoothly.

Educated community on health and hygiene

Arranged workshop and spoke with villagers about the importance and benefit of the education.

Solar water pumps with water metering system which is lined with each household.

Building of wash rooms separately for boys and girls.

Plants of fruit berries and trees planted to create green environment.

Women saved from taking heavy buckets of water on their heads.

Water from covered well through pipes replaced pollutant water which improved health of the beneficiaries.

More water available for bathing and other household washing purposes improved health and hygiene.

Due to conflict on turn of the water which sometime resulted into infighting and even bloodshed discarded.

With additional convenient water available, women grew vegetables for household needs which meet the deficiency of composite diet.

Children relieved from keeping and feeding animals as well as spending three more hours in driving animals for extracting water; thus their health and education improved.

Animal cruelty in using them in extracting water ended.

Men free from ordeal of fetching water, spend more time in work on their fields

Women with free time on their disposal busy themselves in handcraft and other activities.

Solar water pumps are becoming popular and people in other areas have started demanding for this facility for their villages.

The government has started installing Ro Plants on solar after success of solar water pumps and green schools by AWARE.

For more detail and photos please see the following links:

AWARE Green Schools Model in Thar

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.298836513626648.1073741839.100005009049443&type=3

Response to Drought situation

Provided Fodder for livestock and seed to 7992 owners of livestock and farmers. Supplementary food provide to 2337 individuals.

Medical treatment and free medicines provided to 2665 patients through medical camps. Provided shoes and clothes to 95 most needy children. Provided livestock vaccination to 17085 animals.

AWARE contacted BBC and for the first time in the history of Thar BBC aired live show on situation of Thar ED, AWARE represented case of Thar vigorously in the live program

7992

Number of livestock owners were provided fodder, and seeds

2665

Patients got free medical assistance with support of ActionAid

2337

Right Holders were given food suppliment

38

نگھیار



Media mobilization materialized

Tharparkar is one of food insecure Districts of Pakistan. National Nutrition Survey 2011, by UNICEF shows average malnourishment rate of 15.1%, Severe Rate of 5.8% and Moderate Rate was 9.3%. In every 10 years on average Tharparkar faces severe drought. Drought is different from other natural disaster like flood, wildfire etc. drought can be predicated and its intensity mitigated as it builds up slowly. But here government has learnt little or no lessons from past droughts. In year 2014, Government showed lethargy in declaring District Tharparkar drought area. Animals, the main source of income started perishing in large numbers and children and lactating women were worst affected. AWARE contacted and facilitated national and international media's visits in drought hit area. After observing the critical and dangerous drought situation, the national and international media started reporting vigorously and CM Sindh who was going back to Karachi after visiting District Headquarter Mithi only, was taken by media storm. Resultantly Sindh Government instantly declared Tharparkar drought hit area and formed an official committee comprising most active and informative persons from media and civil society (AWARE, ED was part of this committee). Drought committee members belonging to soil of Thar worked hard and put forward their recommendation.

In the result of media's strong reporting government took following steps:

Wrote off agriculture tax.

50 KGs wheat bag to each household on quarterly basis are being provided.



Announced and later on installed Solar run RO plants.

Increased amount in BISP for women of drought hit district Tharparkar.

AWARE addressed another curtail need

But overall government support did not address the issue of nutrition deficiency of infants and lactating mothers. AWARE mobilized support from its partners and philanthropists. And provided dry milk, packed milk, energy biscuits, shoes and clothes for children and uncooked food, dry fruits and other nutrients for women.

Due to weakness the people were hard hit by extreme cold and because of having no resources to buy warm articles. The families, particularly women and children were suffering from extreme cold and its related diseases. AWARE requested one of its partners for support to buy *sawars* (locally made thick and warm

article to keep warm during night to avoid cold). AWARE distributed these among the most affected families. Parents were unable to buy clothes and shoes for children and AWARE distributed these among most needed children. The livestock, the source of livelihood of 80 per cent of population was perishing due to unavailability of fodder and

In the result of AWARE's facilitation, following media groups reported vigorously on the drought situation and government abandoned its denial policy by declaring drought in Thar and extending support
Aljazeera, BBC international , Herald, SAMA TV, Dania, Daily Dawn Newspaper and Dawn TV, Daily Express Tribune,

vaccination. AWARE sprang to action and addressed this very important need and provided fodder for livestock and signed MOUs with livestock department and provided vehicles with fuel to livestock department to carry ahead timely livestock



vaccination. AWARE also Provided field support staff and with the coordination and involvement of DMCs, formed by AWARE under drought response project, the livestock vaccination was successfully carried out and other support was also carried through these committees. Due to involvement of affected people through DMCs and strong coordination with concerned key stakeholders by AWARE, the impact and intensity of drought was less in 17 villages where AWARE works and provided support under its drought response initiative, than other areas of Tharparkar.

Table shows beneficiaries of AWAREs response to drought

S#	Activity	Men	Women	Children	Total
1	Fodder for livestock	481	463	769	1713
2	Supplements of food	639	609	1089	2337
3	Medical camps	776	1150	701	2665
4	Livestock Vaccination	3582	3771	9732	17085
5	Distribution of fodder & seed	2089	1611	4292	7992
6	Shoes & clothes	0	0	95	95
Total		7567	7604	16678	31887

Links for more details:

Sindh Government failed to protect children dying of preventable diseases, Death toll rise to 50 in 43 days Daily Messenger reported

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10205024106592022&set=a.1583226430241.86787.1523140853&type=1&theater>

Editorial of DAWN 9th November tells that, "The situation in Tharparkar is dire because of the drought the desert district in Sindh has witnessed for the second consecutive year."

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1143196/thar-drought>

Living and dying for water in Thar, report by Mohammad Hussein DAWN,

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1143410/living-and-dying-for-water-in-thar>

BBC Urdu telecasted issue of suicide cases and drought,

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x29geog_bbc-urdu-sairbeen-on-aaj-news-6th-november-2014_news#from=embediframe

Javed Choudri's website tells about increase ratio of suicide cases in Thar,

<http://javedch.com/suicides-in-thar/>

Express tribune shared research on suicide cases and its root causes of AWARE, and highlighted drought situation of Tharparkar

http://tribune.com.pk/story/782770/forsaken-in-thar-depression-claims-what-drought-spare/?fb_action_ids=390295754480723&fb_action_types=og.likes

Thar Drought Response Activities

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.326419800868319.1073741850.100005009049443&type=3

Drought-hit Chachro farmers out to find greener pastures (The News)

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-272247-Drought-hit-Chachro-farmers-out-to-find-greener-pastures>

Where is the rain?: Speakers worried as Thar dries up and faces third drought in three years (Express Tribune)

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/750463/where-is-the-rain-speakers-worried-as-thar-dries-up-and-faces-third-drought-in-three-years/>

Sindh keeps silence as Thar drought goes severe (The Nation)

<http://nation.com.pk/karachi/19-Aug-2014/sindh-keeps-silence-as-thar-drought-goes-severe>

Shoes & Sweaters for drought hit Thari people

https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/media_set?set=a.427626497414315.1073741905.100005009049443&type=3

Pirbhat quarterly magazine

One purpose of Quarterly Pirbhat Magazine is to spread the information to the communities who have low or very limited access to mainstream media and provide space to new young writers of the area. Pirbhat also works as tool of awareness rising on important issues directly related to the lives of the people of Thar and its editorial and research report provide raw material for the further debate

and writing on issue like Thar coal, drought, suicides issue and other governance related matters. During 2014 Pirbhat focused on education, health, drinking water, drought and other local issues, which helped people to have clear concept of the issues. Pirbhat also presents very realistic situation analysis based on research and also extends solutions based on ground realities and hands on experiences.

10.2 Study on Solar Powered Solutions for improving water supply in Thatta and Badin Districts.

AWARE with the support of UNICEF Pakistan hired a German firm Consultant to undertake the study to present concrete facts and offer workable solutions for water issue through research. Study brought in light following main ground realities and extended recommendations:

- ✓ 80% of Thatta and Badin District use rain water for agriculture.
- ✓ Only 25 % water meets W.H.O standards.
- ✓ Within one or two weeks, newly dug wells turn saline.
- ✓ Canal water reaches after two months in tail end villages
- ✓ RO plants face operational and fuel issues.
- ✓ No practice or culture of rain harvesting.
- ✓ 30 minutes spent on fetching water by per person, per family, per day.
- ✓ On average medical expenses on waterborne diseases range from PKR. 1000 to 3000 per person annually.
- ✓ 53 % water sources exceed W.H.O standard in salinity.
- ✓ Surface water contains high degree of faecal codification.
- ✓ 8 out of 15 sample contain biological contamination; gastroenterics, diarrhea , skin and kidney diseases are common.
- ✓ Due to shortage of fuel, no water boiling practice in place.
- ✓ In Tharparkar, tooth ache, head ache, throat swelling, vomiting are common along with other diseases mentioned above.
- ✓ According to National Conservation Strategy, 40% deaths are caused due to water related ailments.
- ✓ 60 % of child mortality caused due to water related health problems.

Study informs that import regulation of Pakistan offers tax reduction for import of solar energy system.

The study recommends Cost affective solar technology including locally produced solar system for different water sources and different contamination issues. The importance of the study is that it has deeply analyzed the situation and also cautioned against application of traditional or those technologies which are not fit for the area due to climatic factors including vulnerability to recurrent floods, high cost or unavailability of factors for operation of some of the technologies.

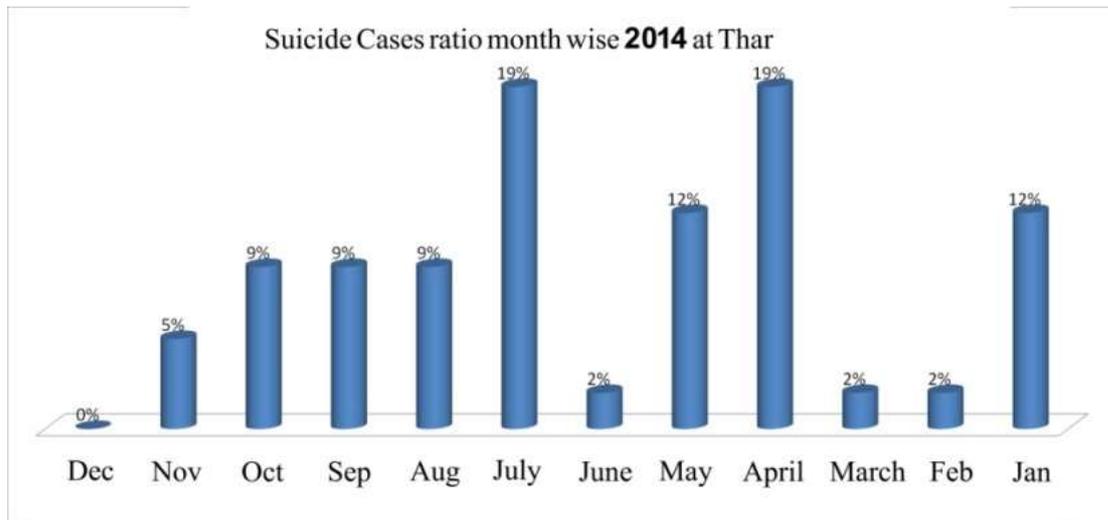
Social Watch Report: Suicides and crime

AWARE conducts research by browsing Sindhi language newspapers.

Historically, People of Thar remained content on their meager resources. But due to host of the reasons, now trend of ending their lives has been increasing.

According to AWARE's Social Watch report 2014, 43 Persons committed suicides in Tharparkar in year 2014. This is highest number in the comparison of past record.

Following table shows year wise rate of suicides since 2011



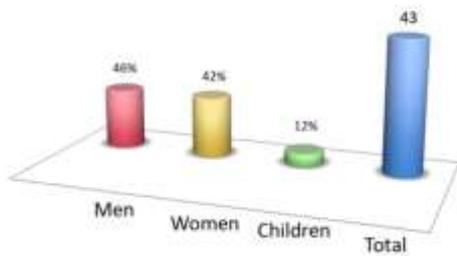
Year	Number of suicides committed
2011	24
2012	35
2013	29
2014	43

The reasons for such high rate of suicides include poverty, family problems, and violence by husbands but generally all these are manifestations of dwindling livelihood resources in the comparison of high inflation and changing social trends and norms.

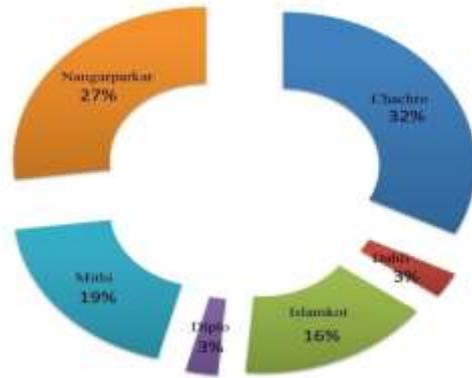
BBC Urdu TV report, on 6 November 2014, quoting figures from AWARE's study (social watch report) said in

Tharparkar widening gulf between rich and poor is also one of the main reasons of high rate of suicides. Growing trend of suicides have also been attributed to unemployment, **family** feuds, domestic violence, **mental** disorders, and mismatched marriages.

Facts & Figures of suicide cases in Thar 2014



Taluka wise ratio of Suicide Cases in Thar 2014



Increasing crime

Although Tharparkar is relatively peaceful part of Sindh with lowest crime rate but this trait is also changing with increasing incidents of murders in 2012, 9 people were killed and in 2013, 13 persons lost their lives.

Above underlined paragraph checked for figure correction and 2014 murder figure in Thar to be added by Mr Manoj

These and other social indicators point towards rapidly changing socioeconomic fabric of Thari society and policy makers, government as well as other key players should pay attention to this rapidly changing milieu of Thar

(update from Jan Mohammad sb)

Kindly write above every link what the links represent ie pictures, videos, or print and electronic media coverage with caption)

Links for more details:

Poverty causing people to kill themselves in drought-hit Thar

<http://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/poverty-causing-people-kill-themselves-drought-hit-thar>

Drought-hit Thar (Daily Dawn)

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=02_09_2014_118_007

[Poverty causing people to kill themselves in drought-hit Thar \(Daily Dawn\)](#)

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1129312>

[BBC Sairbeen about drought on Aaj News](#)

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x29geog_bbc-urdu-sairbeen-on-aaj-news-6th-november-2014_news#from=embediframe

[Daily AWAMI Awaz News clipping](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/chachroawamiexpressclub/photos/a.531092366966180.1073741826.531079053634178/816414415100639/?type=1&theater>

[Forsaken?: In Thar, depression claims what drought spares](#)

By Farahnaz Zahidi Published: October 29, 2014

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/782770/f/>

[BBC Urdu](#)

http://www.bbc.com/urdu/multimedia/2014/11/141106_thar_suicide_aw

Thar Coal Issue (development pregnant with dangers)

Environmental and livelihood issues related to Thar coal were raised by ED AWARE at public Hearing on EIA by Thar Coal Authority at Islamkot. During public hearing Thar communal land (including gauchers) under land grant policy issue was taken up strongly by AWARE. Thar coal related repercussion were strongly taken up at peoples voice forum, highlighted in Pirbhat Magazine (quarterly publication by AWARE). AWARE staff contributed articles in mainstream media and media was facilitated visit's to see and report the Thar coal related issues. Local journalists were facilitated visits to see the development work is/will affect the water sources and other livelihood related matters.

After the failure of under pit coal gasification project lead by Dr Samar Mubarak, resulting in wastage of billions of rupees, Sindh government handed over the project to other contractor firms. Under the new project the coal would be extracted using open pit. It is feared by locals that during digging process of hundreds of feet deep pits, the underground shallow waterlayer mostly used for drinking water through wells would be disturbed. More than 1.5 million populations of 2400 villages of Tharparkar would be deprived from main drinking water sources. Trees would be affected, desertification would increase, and respiratory diseases would increase. More than 55 lacs heads of livestock, livelihood sources of 80 percent of the population of the district would be affected in result of disturbance of gaucher (gazing land for livestock). Since British period, the big chunk of land surrounding the villages is reserved for

gauchers and land coming under the area of Thar coal the people is getting compensation but the gauchers land coming under the area of Thar coal causing loss to animal grazing is not compensated by Thar Coal Authorities. AWARE took up these and other environment, livelihood related issue during public hearing on EIA by Thar Coal Authorities in Islamkot in 2014. AWARE objected on not using traditional tools of inviting local people, presentation being given in Urdu language which majority of Thari people don't understand and vigorously pinioned the harmful points in the official report on website also arguing that this strategy of the concerned authorities is geared to keep the local people in dark by not making translated report in local language public and demanded to make it available to people as well as arranging hearing in local language.

AWARE also informed people through voice of people forum about the Thar coal project related issue and raised the issue in mainstream media and at different forums

Links for more details:

[Resettlement policy benefits coal exploration firms'](#)

[THE NEWSPAPER'S](#)

[CORRESPONDENT — PUBLISHED MAY 20, 2014 05:22AM](#)

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1107319>

AWARE stance during public hearing on SEIA for Thar coal block-6 at village Ranjho Noon near Islamkot

<https://www.facebook.com/aware.thar/videos/vb.100005009049443/192819830894984/?type=2&theater>

Pakistan surges into coal-fired power plants to meet energy demand

<http://www.trust.org/item/20140611093028-fa051>

Honors for AWARE

ED AWARE at TEDx- University Lahore

Ali Akbar Rahmoo was invited by TEDx- University, Lahore to present his contribution and innovations in the field of water and other initiatives in Thar.

Being son of soil of Thar and having shared his brief childhood experience of tough life in Thar Desert, he was heard by the audience with bated breath. In his presentation he sent the message to the audience loud and clear that when there is will there is way. He shared that he left Engineering university to join media hoping it will help him in highlighting the problems of Thar and Tharis and at the end of the day plight of the people of Thar might change for better but disappointedly he left media for good.

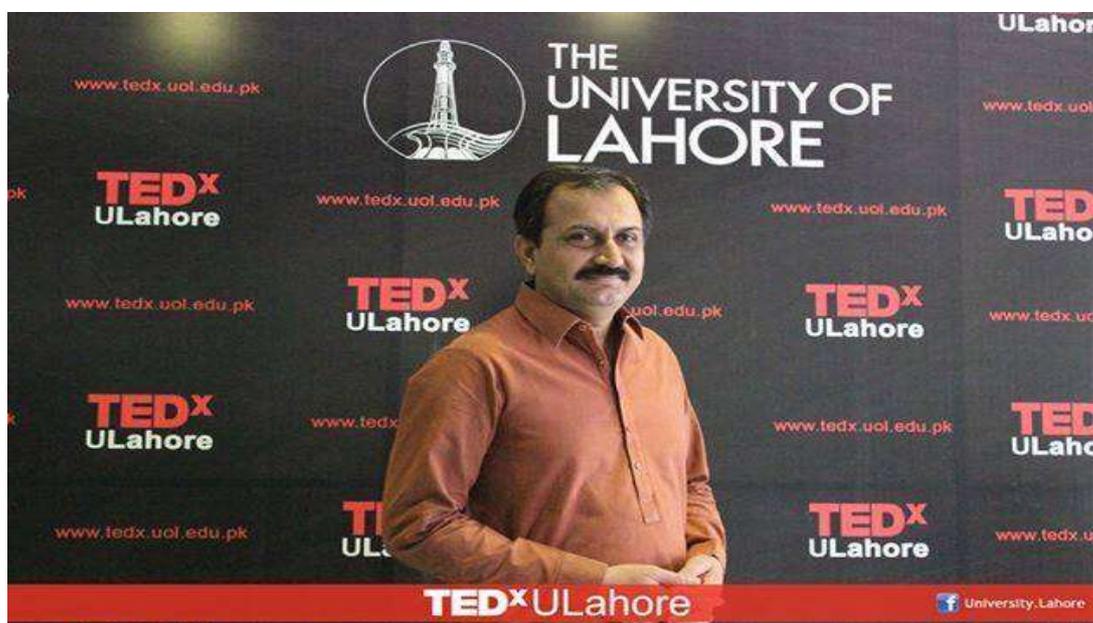
He said he entered development sector starting from local Civil Society organizations to INGOs. He went to present his research work and contribution on water which revealed high fluoride quantity resulting crippling of residents of village Samo

Rind in Tharparkar. Mr Rahimoo also pinpointed his initiative of harvesting wind and solar energy for easing the people's ordeal of extracting deep underground water which otherwise need 3 persons from a household to spend 3 to 4 hours a day for pulling drinking water through very risky and painful process from deep wells. Mr Rahimoo also shared how he worked to demystify myths of helping to recover the patients of psychological and other health problems which were wrongly taken by superstitious segments of society as result of evil spirit attacks. He concluded his presentation saying with problems solution is also available. And stamina, patience and constant efforts lead to success in ones mission.

Through this esteemed opportunity, major issues of Thar as well as some example set by AWARE on social issues, water and renewable energy spheres got sane ears in prestigious institutions.

Below is the video link of the speech/presentation at TEDx- University Lahore, by ED, AWARE

<https://vimeo.com/97502317>



Membership for Thar Development Authority (for developing drought policy)

Mr Ali Akbar Rahimo, ED, AWARE was included in the Committee formed by Sindh government to extend recommendation for developing a policy and long term plan to mitigate the droughts situation in arid and semi-arid zones of Sindh. The committee was mandated for following:

Extending recommendation for formulation of drought mitigation policy.

Proposal for Thar Development Authority, preparation of draft bill for drought mitigation policy and submitting the bill to Chief Minister (Sindh) within two weeks.

The committee included elected representatives, three person from media and three from civil society organizations, from Thar. The committee members worked hard and prepared and submitted their recommendations within given time but they were disappointed and rejected the policy when their most important recommendations were neglected by the powers that are

Membership of Marooara Coordinator Council

The Maroo-ara Co-ordination Council, a registered network of civil society organizations was initiated by then Deputy Commissioner Mr. Abdul Qadir Mangi in 1993. The objective was to bring the social activists on one platform and help in interaction and coordination between Government and non-Government sectors in Tharparkar District. In 2014, Ali Akbar Rahimoo, ED, AWARE was given responsibility of Chairmanship of this prestigious network of more than 18 active civil society organizations working in Thar. The importance of this network has increased manifold due to Thar related major issue and this council can play vital role in advocacy on Thar coal, drought situation and other rights of the people of Thar. During the chairmanship of Mr Ali Akbar, Maroo-ara Co-ordination Council has appointed a Coordinator, developed/updated the website, and hopefully this forum can play more active and vibrant role to rise collective issues of Thar. Bellow is given the link of Marooara Coordinator Council website

<http://www.mccpk.org/>

An insightful and inspirational interview of ED AWARE

Ali Akbar Rahimoon, who goes by Ali Rahimoon, a renowned, committed, skilled development professional and a trailblazer for young human rights defenders in Tharparkar region. I do not feel hesitant saying that he is daring, unafraid and straightforward. He has always refused to surrender before temptations and greed, has done more important work in Tharparkar than all elected representatives. Ali's interest in Thar and Thari people be it an issue of human rights violations, exploitation of resources in Thar and royalty of Thari people, education or environment. Ali has always been leading the movement. Ali has tested nonviolent means to get people's rights recognized, If In this journey, Ali has faced high level threats and risks but with the support of local civil society, media, support of masses and national and international actors, he managed to continue his good work. Recently, I got a chance to interview Ali who is leading an organization called AWARE that work on human rights and development. Let us talk to Ali and ask him about his ideas, work, dreams, perspectives, challenges and threats he faces in his work.

To read detail interview, following link can be availed

<https://rightsnowpak.wordpress.com/2014/02/01/interview-with-a-daring-unafriad-human-rights-defender-whose-love-with-thar-and-thari-people-is-uncontional/>



13. Personalities to be proud of :Faqeer Muqem AWARD by AWARE

Brief life sketch of Faqeer Muqem Khumbhar:

Faqeer Muqem Kumbhar born in historic Village Mehrano was only son of his father with two sisters. His father passed away when Faqeer Muqem was a child. He could not complete his education up to finale (during Faqeer Muqem education years final was moderate education degree). He went to learn the work of pot making but potters exploited this orphan boy by only assigning him the rudimentary work. He became avid reader of books and there was good transformation in his life when he opened pots shop in Mithi, District Headquarter of Tharparkar. He deeply studied the history of Tharparkar. Faqeer Muqem was too much impressed with the Sodha Rule. He also introduced many new patriotic characters of the Thari sandy soil who did not migrate during 1971 War, among them he especially used to mention the Keso bai and Arjun Singh. He guarded that dens and mountains of Tharparkar (from exploitation) with his pen. He was vociferously opposed to the explosions in Karoonjhar for extracting granite and wrote on this issue in different newspapers. First collection of his writings has arrived in the market. After Miskeen Jahan Khan Khoso, Faqeer Muqem was great personality of Thar. He also remained active in politics and was always first to raise his voice on the issues of Thar. He remained active on the forums related to main issues of Thar like Thar coal or drought issue. He took his last breath on May 17, 2012.

Faqeer Muqem Awards:

To pay rich tribute to Faqeer Muqem Kumbhar and acknowledge the work of the committed and creative persons in different fields, and award giving ceremony was held at Gadi Bhit Mithi, where persons from different walk of life were given Faqeer Muqem AWARDS. The Award receiving personalities from Thar have/are rendered their services in journalism, literature, music and social work.

Case studies

Helped to recover from night blindness

Village Umar Unar, in UC Tardos of Taluka Chachro, District Tharparkar is one of 17 focused villages where AWARE is working on Right based Approach.

During coordination, networking and linkage meeting with WHO , where village health committees from focused villages participated , Marvi Bheel, a member of Village committee of village Umar Unar shared that 15 persons from her village were suffering from night blindness. W.H.O Surveillance Officer said to AWARE team that there is good stock of medicines for night blindness available in W.H.O office at District level and offered to take these medicines to the needy villagers. AWARE health team took these medicines (capsules) to the village and administered first dose of the medicine to 15 affected persons. Slowly after completion of the medicine the 15 patients of night blindness recovered. As night blindness is caused due to lack of vitamin A, which is acquired from fish and as fish is not easily available and affordable in Thar, there is high



deficiency of vitamin A and in some parts night blindness is common. But the villagers shared that they took this disease as cause of evil spirit attack and reverted to the spiritual healers for getting their blessing and amulets to recover from the disease. With recovering of the 15 patients of night blindness from Village Umar Unar after availing simple and inexpensive medical treatment the perception has been dispelled that the disease is cause of any heavenly power but only dietary deficiency and can be cured with normal and easily affordable treatment. AWARE set other example that people can avail the treatment and get recovered rather than spending their meager income and energies to seek help from exploiting so called spiritual healers and quacks.



Hujatuallah becomes healthy

AWARE social Mobilizer observed in village Adam Rind that a boy was dropping water over his body continuously. On enquiry the villagers said he is more vulnerable to heat. Hujatuallah said to AWARE team that 'I could not bear heat. Please provide solar plate with fan and help me in my treatment'. AWARE made a video documentary and appeal for Hujatuallah's treatment on social media because local doctors were unable to diagnose the strange health problem. And his parents and neighbors believed that besides medical problem Hujatuallah might be suffering from attacks of evil spirits and were running here and there for seeking amulets from "spiritual healers "Finally AWAER decided to arrange the treatment of Hujatuallah and a staff member of AWARE along with father of Hujatuallah took him to Karachi. Hujatuallah was admitted in Jinnah Hospital Karachi after assorted tests from Aga khan hospital, Doctors concluded that Hujatuallah was suffering from calcium deficiency

related diseases which was direct result of malnutrition. Doctor said his bones have become fragile, twisted and weak and if he would have availed the treatment earliest he might have had recovered rapidly but now at the age of 17, the pace of his health recovery would be slow. Besides medicines the doctors suggested food full of nutrition's and calcium. Slowly and gradually Hujatuallah is recovering, although Hujatuallah parents are trying their best to provide required diet to him but due to poverty and long distance from food market in a remote village of Thar, he is not getting what can help him fully. Hopefully Hujatuallah would be a normal youth and lead normal life but AWARE by taking him to medical treatment where real cause of his health problem was identified, has dispelled the widely believed notion of attack evil spirit on some extent and the superstitious people got clear message that there is no such supernatural power to afflict the angel like children but timely medical treatment is the real solution.



Ambulance for underprivileged

Rajesh is driver of the Ambulance provide by AWARE to Taluka Hospital Chachro. He shared his experience of providing service to underprivileged “I am always ready to take the patients in serious conditions from Taluka Hospital Chachro to health facilities to other major cities. People accompanying patients are always poor who in some cases even don't have money for oil but I have to pay from my own pocket when the patients promise to repay the amount or take petrol from a patrol pump who knows me and trust me on the condition that I will pay back. Majority of the patient's return the amount to me. I have seen several serious cases in which if the ambulance by AWARE had not been provided, the patients have had suffered more or even lost their lives in most serious cases. Sometimes patients or their attendants use harsh language insisting that I should drive the ambulance faster but I don't react to them, as I know that they are in tension due to the plight of their dear one patient's. Ambulance was equipped with stretcher, oxygen and blood pressure checker. But now some of these attached additional facilities have developed fault and need to be repaired. If in absence of ambulance patients are taken in private vehicles the police obviously stops these for security checking and in case of protest or road blocks the private vehicles are stopped but ambulance is allowed and lot of time is saved which helps in reaching earlier, resulting in providing timely medical relief and even saving the lives of the patients'. Driver Rajesh says 'the ambulance service is blessing for the underprivileged' but aspires that if his small ambulance is replaced with heavier one it would be easier for him and the patients to travel more comfortably because of long distance and not so good condition of road from Chachro to Mirpurkhas.



Little effort big impact

Education of entire Sindh is entrenched in cobweb of problems ranging from closed schools, missing facilities, teacher's absence, galloping corruption and host of other problems. AWARE in its 17 focused village in Chachro is contributing to bring improvement in government schools by introducing innovation and helping the communities to play important role in making the government schools fully functional and child friendly. The parents have started taking interest in matters related to the education of their children. Mis Bacchi, one of the participant of AWARE activities narrates her story that show that how much she is concerned about the education of their children, particularly girls education.

'During reflect circle meeting in village Charnor, I asked AWARE team that previously girls pupils were getting scholarship but now they are not getting and the post men and middle men eat away the amount meant for the support of girls. Please do something in this regard" said Mis Bachhi 42 of village Charnor.

'I was concerned for the girls scholarship because it is good initiative and helped the girls lot. Parents are willing to send their girls because of this monetary incentive and in the context of Thar parents rarely sent their girls to avail middle and secondary education. This financial help mattered lot for the poverty-hit parents to meet educational expenses of their girls. I don't wanted to allow the post men, teachers and middle men nexus to cut or completely pocket this amount meant for the education of girls' said Ms Bachi resolutely ' I constantly enquired from the AWARE team when they were on visit of our village or on phone through a contact person boy that what happened about the girls stipend issue and I was told that AWARE has written to court (the Director Human Rights) about the matter' I continued to request AWARE and they assured that they are equally concerned about this very important problem. One day the AWARE team came with very good news that Judge along with lot of other big officials visited Chachro and took strong notice of the issue' said Mis Bachi with happy face ' not only this but I learnt that on the basis of AWARE teams strong evidence the session judges sent a good report to Sindh government and due to complaints from other districts Sindh government decided to send the money to the girls through mobile phone (easy paisa)' said MsBachi victoriously " I am thankful to AWARE that they raised the issue strongly that not only girls from village but from entire Sindh province are getting full amount of scholarship through easy paisa" Mis Bachi ended her story with broad smile.

Self-esteem regained and ordeal ended

Drinking water is top most problems in Tharparkar district. And wells are traditional sources of drinking and other household and animal watering needs. But some marginalized souls in number of villages don't have access to this source of water. AWARE team was going on a field visit and on their way they saw one young man along with couple of children with jerry cans in their hands and the team stopped vehicle to enquire them were they are heading. One of them narrated following very heart wrenching story:

'We were living in Salo Bheel village for long time but due to some compulsion we shifted to our own piece of land and have planned to dug our own well in our new village but drought shattered our plan as we spent everything on food instead on digging the well' shared 26 years old Achar of newly established village Veero Bheel in UC Rajoro of Taluka Chachro, District Tharparkar

'We boys and young men went to one village well to other situated on average 3 KMs from our new village. Being Bheel is disadvantageous as we are looked down by Muslim so when we arrived on the well of other Muslim villagers they behaved degradingly towards us and exploited us due to our compulsion. Village head and other men from the village ordered us to first draw water from deep well for their use then draw water for our own use. We were

already tried due to long walk to the village but have no option but always obliged the rude men to draw water for them first and then for ourselves' revealed Aachar painfully 'extracting water from deep well through animals is very arduous, backbreaking and risky exercise but we went through all this ordeal and always submitted to the orders of head man of the village. We always returned to the village extremely tired and with injured self-esteem' Aachar said with deep sigh 'one day AWARE team was going to their field work and saw me and my other little co villager boy going to fetch water and asked us where we are going . We shared our entire sorrowful story and AWARE team went away. After one and half month they (AWARE team) came to our village and saw our plight with their own eyes. And helped us in having our own well in our village. One woman from my village shared with the female AWARE team that water is valued more than dalda ghee due to its scarcity and now AWARE team has given us a well of our own. One man from each family worked on digging the well. We also got some kind of financial support in the shape of daily wages for digging our own well' explained Aachar while smiling' we are thankful to AWARE team for this gift in the shape of well. These sources of water besides meeting our dirking and other household and animal watering needs would help us in getting rid of the practice of extracting water for others and restore our self-esteem which got wounded every day when we went to extract water in other villages'

Aware team communicated with supporting organization and helped the villagers to have their own water well.

Story of tragedies and success

Kevel, 18, is resident of village Manjhi Rind in UC Sarangia, Taluka Chachro. He narrated his story of tragedies and success.

'When I was 10 years old, my father sent me as guarantee to a money lender because my father could not repay debt of Rs10000 to the moneylender tin Chachro. I wanted to study and was afraid to go and work for a stranger but have no option' said Kevel.



'When the same moneylender opened small carpet industry in my village, Manjhi Rind, I was sent to work on the carpet making, AWARE team met there and convinced my parents and carpet industry owners to allow me to go to the school in the morning and work at carpet making in the evening. I was happy to join school but this happiness was short lived when my mother went into psychological trauma and was crying and behaving rashly all the time due to post-delivery complication'. Said Kevel with moisturized eyes. 'Instead of taking her to the doctor, the villagers tied her in a tree in front of the village. Now I have to abandon study and have to take care of my brothers livestock, tender and feed my mother tied with the tree because none other went near her believing she has been afflicted with evil spirit and whoever went near her would be inflicted by the same evil spirit. My father was away all the time to work as daily wage labor I felt dejected, disappointed and depressed. My

schooling was disrupted once again' continued kevel while wiping his tears at this difficult time AWARE team came to my help and after long debate with my father took her to doctor in Karachi who said there was no evil spirit attack and she was just suffering from post-delivery complications. My mother recovered and was back to home. Once again I joined my studies. I was brightest boy in the school and my teacher shared this to someone and I was supported to avail education in Mirpurkhas. And was selected as members of international Jury on bounded labor in 2012. I also got chance to attend World Children Prize

For Rights of Children in Sweden. During my study and forging visits as international Jury member, I have observed and learnt that poverty can be overcome, inequality and injustice can be resisted and success can be achieved through hard work and steadfastness' declared kevel emotionally.

'I am studying in premedical and hope to become doctor and serve in my area that no ones mother can be tied with tree on the pretext of evil spirit; no kevel is sold as bonded labor as a guarantee and no kevel is taken out of school' kevel ended his story with resolution and brimming confidence.

Benefits of kitchen garden

'After solar water pumps we are using waste water (excluding water from washing cloths) to water 6 kitchen gardens in our village. The fresh vegetables have helped us a lot to meet the need of entire village' said 40 years old Razia from village Nasurulah Sand. 'This is meeting our dietary needs and especially during the time of drought these kitchen gardens have become great help. Health of our family members, especially women and children has improved and previously medical expense incurred on diseases caused due to food deficiency has been saved' added Razia



Education for empowerment

Danish is student of class seven from village Manjhi Rind, during his exposure visit to Hyderabad by AWARE he was amazed to see many new things, he never had seen in his life time, he shares his experience:

'I was excited to see a city, when I accompanied the children, teachers and AWARE staff to visit Hyderabad city, I felt excited and bit nervous. I



saw wide roads, many vehicles and tall buildings. But most amazing scene for me was mighty River Indus.' Narrated Danish' in Thar we see little water in the bottom of deep well. But in river Indus water was following in big quantity. And this was completely new world for me' continued Danish with same excitement. 'Boats were equally amazing things for me and when I ferried along with my fellow students with mixed feelings of fear and enjoyment I thought here water is flowing in abundance but in our Thar we yearn for every drop of water and

during droughts our people and animals undergo thirst and extreme shortage of water 'Danish went on' other things like museum and zoo were also enjoyable. I wondered how these plump people of city dressed in wonder costumes, drove in comfortable vehicles easily whereas our people traveled in *kekras* (a World War II era long vehicle) stuffed like animals inside, on roof and some sticking or hanging on staircase and sides of the vehicle. I asked one of AWARE staff why there is so much discrepancy between our life and city life. Sian Ali Nawaz of AWARE told me that city people are enjoying all these amenities because they focus on education, avail higher

education and with education comes progress and educated people are in better position to get their rights whereas in Thar majority of people are uneducated or poorly educated this is real cause of our backwardness. He was right and I came with more determination that I would continue my education and work for the rights of Thari people and play my role for progress of my village.' Danish said

Community devised mechanism against child marriages

'After getting information about the harmful practice of child marriage,

dowry. Thus partially understanding that the practice is harmful to their children



members of reflects circle and women organization of our village Nasurullah Sand sat together and deliberated in detail to find solution of child marriage issue in our village. Finally we decided that we would set aside amount of PKR 18000 dowry incentive for the parents of the girl who would agree to arrange the marriage of their daughter when she reaches the age of 18 years or more. We went to the parents of the girls who planned to arrange the marriages of their girls below 18 years. First we explained to them harmful impacts of child marriages and then offered them incentive of

Solar made living easier

'The solar pump provided by AWARE made our lives easier. We faced utmost hardships in keeping beast of burden for extracting water. Keeping and feeding these animals was big problems And when these animals wandered in another farmers' fields there was risk of feud and bloodshed. The risk of infighting always loomed on the turns of water. Women and children spend three to five hours of

and partially due to incentive of dowry the parents agreed to postpone the marriage of the girls blow 18 years age. This way we members of Reflect Circle and village women organization succeeded in stopping 6 child marriages in our village. We have made an impressive theater story against child marriages and we present this at our villages and other forums. Our dream is to see early girl's child marriage free villages of Thar'-Fatima Sand, active member of Reflect Circle and president of women organization, Nasurullah Sand



the day to extract and fetch water from deep and dangerous wells. In holy month of Ramadan (month of Fasting) with fasting we faced lot of trouble in fetching water. But now, thanks to AWARE, we have been spared from this entire ordeal and water flows to our homes through pipes. Said Mr Wali Muhammad Samoo, School Teacher of Village Jan Muhammad Samo. 'This water is cleaner than muddy water extracted earlier from the open wells. AWARE has also provided solar system for School where children come and charge their lights to be used at home. Thus homes also get light and people sleep soundly oblivious of the fear of piyan Snake which attacks the sleeping persons in darkness and pours the poison in the mouth of sleeping persons. But solar charged lights keep the deadly snake at bay. The Child learning Resource Centers also get electricity from the solar Pump and children learning comfortably during searing heat month of summer. There solar system is durable and did not require any repair through the years.' Added Mr Wali Muhammad 'Once our spiritual leader and Local Elected MNA arrived in our village. And remarked that in your village there is no load shedding we informed him that this is not electricity but solar driven energy provided by AWARE. He was impressed and when the villagers of another village Samo Rind were struggling and protesting to demand solar run Ro Plants for their village, the local MNA who was impressed with the solar Pump in our village played

important role to convince the government to provide RO plants on Solar to Village Samo Rind and they have got two RO Plant on solar' said Mr Wali Muhammad

Our struggle won

'Drinking water issue was question of



life and death for our village. Or life was no better than death for some of our villagers who were made disabled due to drinking water from wells and many looked older than their normal age. Their limbs distorted and deformed. All this was cause of high fluoride in underground water in my Village Samo Rind' said 30 years old Akbar Ali Rind who played leading role in struggle for getting solar run RO Plants facility for his village.

'AWARE done excellent work by conducting research on underground water which identified main cause of our villagers' diseases as existence of high quantity of fluoride in underground water in our village and also showed us the way and provided guidance and support in our struggle to demand solar run RO plants' added Akbar Ali

'We staged sit ins during the expected visit of then President of Pakistan, Mr Asif Ali Zardari (in 2013)but hearing news of strong protest, president postponed his visit and Mr Muhesh Mulani, local leader of PPP (ruling



party in Sindh) came to our hunger strike camp and announced providing of Solar run RO plants for our village but the government announcement remained only announcement'. Narrated Akbar Ali while wiping sweat

from his forehead. 'We started our struggle again along with AWARE team and our long struggle bore fruit when we got two RO Plants on solar. With the help and guidance from AWARE we got RO plants for our villages "declared Akbar Ali jubilantly ' now 70 per cent of our water problem has been solved as RO plants only provide limited quantity of water which is only used for drinking purpose but for watering animals we still have to drag water from deep wells'. He said ' we are vigilant all the time for the protection of the RO plants and solar plates. We have got this blessing after long struggle which will save our new generation from the suffering some people from our village undergone (became disabled)' Akbar Ali finished his talk with satisfying smile



Happy to have Hand Pumps

'It is remarkable act of AWARE and Plan International Pakistan that they provided us Hand Pump in Our Mohalla. We especially women and children are getting benefit from it. The newly installed Hand Pump fulfills our needs of Drinking Water it is easy in the comparison of dragging water from deep wells which was also perilous, Water from hand pump is safe and easily accessible' stated Ms Hajran from Village Roshan Palli in UC Atta Muhammad Palli

Smile turns back of elderly Women of Village Otaque Haji Anwar Rajarof Union Council Atta Muhammad Palli. She expressed her gratitude for Plan International Pakistan. 'Before this we used to fetch drinking water from unguarded water well. Water was contaminated and unsafe to drink. children's health remained affected due to consuming unhygienic water from the open wells' continued Ms Hajran

Women of Village Roshan Palli of Union Council Atta Muhammad Palli fetching drinking water from Hand Pump installed by AWARE They shared that 'This Hand Pump fulfills the required water need of 16 Households of our Jairam Bheel Mohalla it is near to steps of all Households. Before this hand pump we remained busy in routine house chores and in the agriculture fields after this we were worried to fetch drinking water from another village it was very difficult for us. Now we have no any issues regarding fetching water. we all are Happy. Our pet animals also getting benefit from it'.

Water facility created ease for us

'We have to walk one and half KM to fetch water from other villages. This consumed a lot of time and we faced angry remarks from the villagers of that village on turn of water, sometimes we have to wait for long time for our turn. With the installation of Hand pump in our village by AWARE and Plan International, all our difficulties came to end' said Ms Ratni, Resident of village Haji Jumoon Khan Rahimoo of UC Atta Muhammad Pali

'The water facility through Hand Pump has been installed at the central point of our Village and this has created ease for whole village. Especially we women are happy and time saved from going for fetching water from other village is spent on handicraft and such other leisure time income generation undertakings by women. We are in better position to meet our household work responsibilities and pay attention on the better upbringing of our children' said Ms Ratni, who is also member of Village Sanitation Committee of her village.



Serious to save health

Village Usman Maher, located in Union Council Khejrari of District Umerkot comprises 52 Households with the population of 328. Bheel, Kohli, Khokar and Oad castes are living in the village. It's a backward village and there is no any facilities regarding health and education. Village has only one school and teacher does not perform his duty that is why education is almost nonexistent. All inhabitants of this village are very poor and the source of livelihood is agricultural activities. Due to the cause of open defecation, all inhabitants were facing different diseases like cholera, diarrhea, typhoid etc. Village had no any single latrine, after the intervention of AWARE and attending the session called triggering, the resident of the village got sensitized and started constructing latrine and now the villagers have latrines in households.

During triggering meeting, I felt shame and disgust and decided to construct my latrine'. 58 years old Toti Bai now general secretary of Village Sanitation Committee, shared her experience. After finishing my work in fields, I started work to construct the latrine on same day. Being very poor I had no money for construction material like pipes and cement therefore I sold 15kg of wheat and purchased pipe and cement for latrine and started to construct basic structure'. Toti Bai continued her success story ' I constructed side pit and made it very strong by sides. Keeping in mind of rainy season, I mud plastered outside of whole pit and raised the platform also. Toti said that 'I had never thought that open defecation is the major cause for main health problems especially in women

because women of our village faced so many problems like privacy and other skin diseases too and they mostly holed their urine and excrete for whole day and it had caused many intestinal problems but now we can use our constructed latrine to get rid from all this'. Ms Toti added

'I urged my co villagers, especially women to construct the latrine without any delay and also requested them to visit my latrine as an example (model or sample) I thought that it was better and safe from rain water. I also shared the good information points, I learned from the health sessions like washing hands with soap. I believe construction of latrine, their proper usage and cleaning and practicing on health message will help in saving our villagers from most of the diseases and money we spent on diseases' Ms Toti finished her story with contentment



Receptive and responsive

Village Otaque Sarwar Palli, in UC Khejrari, is located 12 KMs from the Umerkot District. Village has 65 household with a population of 298. Before the arrival of AWARE, open defecation was common in this village and its surroundings. This resulted in the security and privacy problems particularly for women who ventured outside their homes and relieved themselves in plants and bush grooves around the village diseases like malaria, diarrhoea and many other

infectious diseases were common. Women and children were the worst sufferers because of the absence of latrines within their compounds. They were forced to go to places far from their households in all kinds of weather in order to fulfil their natural needs, which sometimes also exposed them to dog bites. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, residents of Otaque Sarwar Palli) - and active VO of this village with mobilization of AWARE succeeded in making their village open defecation free .This contribution made very significant change in the construction of latrines. The construction of latrines was completed in one month. Besides, the VO members are also imparting regular health and hygiene

instructions, and proper usage and maintenance of the latrines,

The villagers on their own introduced innovation of constructing roof for the protection from rainwater. AWARE Mobilization team was marvelled to see that the villager's received the information on health and hygiene very seriously and acted on it completely. Now changes in the village can be easily seen, as local communities of the area are constructing latrines by themselves with the technical support of CRP and VO members. Approximately 700 men, women and children are directly benefiting from the proper sanitation system.

Afterwards, the open defecation of village was stopped and they all are waiting for ODF declaration.



AWARE Partners

Action Aid Pakistan	OXFAM GB	Muslim Charity, UK	Association for Development of Pakistan (ADP)	Karwan Development Foundation (KDF)
Mr. Javed, Philanthropist	HISAAR Foundation	Plan International	IDSP	UNICEF
Road to Jinah	UEP oil company	Lodhi foundation Karachi		

Visitors at AWARE during 2014

Muslim Charity delegation: visited Green model School, Solar Water Pumps

Plan International: visited AWARE work in Chachro.

BBC, DAWN, HERALD, SAMA TV, Aljazeera TV and other media groups visited to report drought situation and also visited and highlighted AWARE work.

WFP Team; visited AWARE office and also visited AWARE work in field.

UEP team visited AWARE Office and AWARE work at Field.

HISAAR Foundation visited AWARE Office and AWARE field work

TRDP Delegation visited Green Model Schools.

KDF visited AWARE office and visited field including solar water pumps.

Danish Muslim Aid representatives visited AWARE office and field work.

Schneider Pakistan team visited AWARE office and field especially visited solar water pumps.

Aleem Adil Sheikh Ex Relief Minister, along with local journalists visited Field work of AWARE.

DEO Tharparkar visited AWARE work and inaugurated Green model schools. AC, Mukhtiarkar and representatives from different civil society organizations came on joint monitoring and facilitation visit at AWARE office and also visited AWARE work at field.

IDSP team lead by Dr Qurtulain Bakhtiari visited AWARE Chachro Office and field area.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Stands for
AWARE	Association for Water, Applied Education and Renewable
BODs	Board of directors
FANSA	Fresh Water Action Network South Asia
TVO	Trust for Voluntary Organizations
PCRET	Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies
PCSIR	Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
IDSP	Institute of Development Studies and practices
CWS	Church World Service
AEDB	Alternative Energy Development Board
NCRD	National Center for Rural Development
DCHD	Democratic Commission for Human Development (Lahore)
SPARC	Society for the Protection of the Child
NGORC	Non-Governmental Organization Research Center
UNICEF	United Nation Framework Convention of Climate Change
FANSA	Fresh Water Action Network South Asia
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
RO Plants	Reverse Osmosis plants
SMS	School Management Committees
MOU	Memorandum of Under Standing
UC	Union Council
DFID	Department for International Development
SAWR	
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
CRP	Community Resources Person
ED	Executive Director
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
SMCs	School Management Committees
CLRCs	Child Learning Resource Centers
CNICs	Computerized National Identity Cards
BHUs	Basic Health Units
CM	Chief Minister
ED	Executive Director
KGs	Kilo Grams
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
TORs	Terms of Reference
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
WHO	World Health Organization
MNA	Member of National Assembly
PPP	Pakistan People's party
TMO	Taluka Municipal Officer
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflect process
GPS	Government Primary School
IG	Inspector General (of police)

BISP	Benazir Income Support Program
DMCs	Disaster Management Committees
UEP	United Energy Pakistan
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation (Urdu)
WFP	World Food program
TRDP	Thardeep Rural Development Program
KDF	Karwan Development Foundation
DEO	District Education officer
AC	Assistant Commissioner
RO	Regional Officer
PKR	Pakistani Rupees
VO	Village Organization