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SUCCESS STORY

School Management Committee Gets Children Back To School

The Sindh Community Mobilization Program continues to maximize community support for the Sindh Basic Education Program's investment in the future of education in Sindh Province by mobilizing communities to increase enrolments amongst out-of-school children and get children who have dropped out back to school



Photo by: USAID/CMP

"I'm so excited to be back at school and so thankful to the elders of my village and the people from CMP; together they convinced my father that it was more important for me and my family that I stop helping him out on the farm and go back to school."

Dilshad Ali, Grade Three Student,
Government Boys' Primary School,
Sabal Junejo Village, Larkana District.

Dilshad Ali is from the village of Sabal Junejo in Larkana District of Sindh Province. He attended the village's Government Boys' Primary School until he reached Grade Three when his father, Irshad Sheikh, took him out of school: "I thought my poor family needed money more than education. So I took Dilshad out of school to help me on the farm."

Dilshad's case came to the attention of CMP's Community Mobilization Team working closely with the school and its School Management Committee (SMCs) to get enrollments up in SBEP targeted schools and children that had dropped out back to school. During a joint review of the schools' attendance register it was discovered that Dilshad, a popular and diligent student, had not attended for three months. Members of the SMC provided the local knowledge that he'd left school to help out on the family farm.

SMC members visited Dilshad and his family along with CMP's Community Mobilization Team. Many neighbors gathered at the house as the SMC members talked with his father and heard them stress how important it was for Dilshad to receive an education. Neighbors sympathized with the family's plight but still added their voices to those of the SMC members that it was short-sighted for Irshad Sheikh to take his son out of school. Irshad Sheikh responded: "You've all come here as good neighbors because you feel I've made a mistake. I appreciate and thank you for that and will re-enroll my son."

The next morning Irshad Sheikh re-enrolled his son. Other neighbors followed suit and four girls and five more boys went back to school.

"I'm so glad to be back at school," said Dilshad, "I cried so hard when I had to leave."