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PAKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION PUSHES A FATHER TO LEARN FIRST LETTERS FROM SON

The Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) continues to maximize community support for the Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) by raising awareness of the importance of education, and promoting individual and family commitment to education.



Photo by: USAID/CMP

Mr. Azam Din can now read and write.

“The day my son got first prize in fifth grade, I felt like he had grown up in stature. I realized then that my level of knowledge can make a real difference to my son and the rest of my family. So, I decided to begin learning how to read and write with the help of my son. He began teaching me how to count and the Sindhi alphabet. Thanks to my son, I can now count to 100, write the Sindhi alphabet, and add, subtract, and divide.”

Mr. Azam Din, Father of Mairaj Din, Fifth Grade student at the Pir Jo Goth GBPS, Larkana District

Azam Din cannot read or write, which has solidified his and his family’s status in poverty. To make a meager living, he steers a donkey cart in the Pir Jo Goth Village in the Larkana District. Azam is not alone. Many other illiterate men and women work tirelessly everyday yet struggle for survival. Poorly-functioning administrative, management, educational, and community support systems significantly contribute to the prevailing illiteracy and poverty rates in the Sindh Province.

Many recognize that education could resolve their struggles. However, this desire competes with their everyday needs for survival. Their solution is to ensure that their children are educated so that they can someday have a better life. Azam is no different. Like many other illiterate parents, he has encouraged his son, Mairaj, to go to school despite all challenges.

It goes without saying that Azam was quite proud of his son when he was recognized for his academic success. Members of the Pir Jo Goth Government Boys’ Primary School’s (GBPS’) School Management Committee (SMC), the CMP community mobilization team, and others present at the annual school day celebration could see Azam’s excitement as Mairaj received a trophy for scoring the highest in fifth grade. This pride and excitement ignited his desire to further his own education. He realized that his level of knowledge can make a real difference to his son and the rest of his family. Soon after, Azam began learning how to read and write with the help of his son, Mairaj.

Weeks after he began learning how to read and write, he attended a much publicized meeting for the formation of the SMC subcommittees, as part of CMP’s to broaden community participation. Along with elders, villagers, and SMC members, he gathered at the Pir Jo Goth GBPS to select SMC subcommittee members. He was selected to be a member of the DRR, GENDER and WATSAN subcommittee, due to his support of the SMC and participation in the CMP-facilitated activities in order to address the educational needs of the children. Azam accepted his new role and surprised his fellow villagers by confidently signing his name on the SMC subcommittee membership form, rather than imprinting his thumb impression as he would have done before he learned how to read and write. His commitment to his son’s and other children’s education, as well as his own reflects the beginning of a new era in education in the Sindh Province.