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SUCCESS STORY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LEADS TO COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION IN BAKHSHAN CHAKRANI!

The Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) continues to maximize community support for the Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) by informing and engaging communities to invest in the education of their children so that they can receive quality education.



Photo by: USAID/CMP

Members of the family in the Bakhshan Chakrani Village who donated some of their land to village's GBPS, targeted by SBEP.

“Three of us were unable to continue our studies. We are very poor, and education is not easy for our children. They study under a tree in scorching weather conditions. SBEP’s new upgraded school building with cool grand rooms, functional toilets, library, clinic, science and computer labs, playground, and much more is like a dream come true. We happily donate one jerib of our land to the school. We would donate even more if needed because it is for our children.”

Announced the four siblings from the Bakhshan Chakrani Village, Sukkur District, during the community meeting.

In the Bakhshan Chakrani Village, located in the semi desert area two hours from Sukkur City, live the four siblings of the Chakrani family: Allah Dad, Bai Khatoon, Sohni Khatoon, and Manzoor Hussain. Like many in the village, the family consists of villagers who raise cattle and work as laborers. Most lack education and are illiterate. Dad is a small scale farmer who raises cattle, Bai is the wife of a tailor, and Sohni’s husband works as a laborer.

The fourth sibling, Manzoor, is among the few fortunate villagers and sole family member to receive an education. His passion for study, and eventual desire to teach children and expand their education and knowledge, motivated his family to pool resources for his own education. With his Master’s degree, he has been teaching at the village’s two-classroom school, Bakhshan Chakrani Government Boys’ Primary School (GBPS) since 2011. Manzoor’s successful education path did come with many challenges. He had to walk eight kilometers in the desert for primary education. Later, the nearest higher level educational institutions were a four-hour walk. The lucky few children like him stayed with relatives in the city in order to study.

Today, education continues to be a challenge for the Village children. They have to study under a tree in scorching weather conditions. Most have to spend time going home to use the washroom because those at the school are inadequate. Access to education beyond the primary level also continues to be difficult for many, especially girls. The closest higher level school is still four hours away, making it difficult for children to attend school after the primary level. For girls, there are also the realities of cultural restraints. For the villagers, the possibility of having a better school that addresses these obstacles is a dream come true.

Given the village-wide education challenges, it was not surprising that the students, School Management Committee (SMC), teachers, and villagers were excited about the news that the Village’s GBPS was shortlisted as one of SBEP’s construction efforts. CMP shared the great news with the community. They also shared that the community would need to donate land adjacent to the school in order for the construction of the new school building to be possible. This land belonged to the Chakrani family.

The CMP team’s strong relationship with the community and the SMC facilitated the family’s ease in agreeing to donate one jerib, or a fourth, of their land. Despite their own economic challenges and need for this land, the family chose to commit to their children’s education through this donation. As a result, the Bakhshan Chakrani GBPS was confirmed as one of SBEP’s new construction school.

¹ Events included the annual school days, enrollment campaign, and SMC trainings.