



An effort to promote - Plural Business Partnership for Peace

Now there is no need to emphasise that Balochistan is the richest component of Pakistan with reference to its mineral resources, its potential coastal capital, livestock and its horticulture. Still the province is placed in back draw of development in the country. In-fact financial future of Pakistan rests in the exploration, utilization of resources directing towards development of the area lying barren at the moment. Balochistan with enormous stock of minerals can help develop variety of industry has not been able to attract the investors. Unfortunately efforts to promote textile industry in Quetta and Uthal failed due to labour and management conflicts. Same was the fate of classical woolen mills at Hernai.

The government of Balochistan declared Lasbela as the industrial zone and investors focused Hub for their activities and launched small and medium size industries during 1970s and 1980s. It generated quite reasonable amount of investment and jobs for the area. The small town of Hub soon became a city which attracted skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled labour to help the industry and earn their livelihood. However, very soon conflicts among the business community and the local people cropped up which rose to scale and resulted in flight of business. The city which was expected to share the burden of Karachi in a couple of decades was frustrated of its future due to the conflicts. The conflicts have grown over the years which have affected the province very badly. Therefore the need to address the situation was felt very strongly, but there did not exist any mechanism to help.

International Alert, an organization supporting Government in its endeavors to promote economic activity in the country, carried out a study of the industrial entrepreneur and found that it was not much aware of the corporate social responsibility which is internationally recognized for healthy relations among the local communities and industry. The managers of companies thought that providing financial help to some people was sufficient to relieve them of their responsibilities. However it did not work. The study demonstrated that causes of conflicts varied at sites. The communities where the companies worked felt that their resources were being exploited, the companies were importing labour ignoring unemployment in the area on the plea of non-availability of local skilled people, no investment was made to improve their life. The workmen who came from outside did not know much about the culture and social norms of local communities which resulted in rampant conflicts. Cognizant of the situation the International Alert decided to intervene through a local partner. The SCSPEB agreed to participate in a well-conceived systematic program of educating the local communities and developing a bridge among the companies and the communities.



The area of Bela of district Lasbela was identified to initiate an intervention. Bela is famous for its barite stone deposits which are used by the construction industry across the country. Quite a few investors are working in the area. They bring the skilled and unskilled labours from Karachi and other parts of the country. This labor force lives in the neighborhood of the local communities and shares various local resources. They visit shops, fetch water and sometimes like to spend their leisure time with their friends in the community. Since they are not conversant with the cultural sensitivities therefore the conflicts crop up frequently which result in various kinds of problems affecting both the communities and the industry. The SCSPEB conducted a survey of the area in order to identify the real causes of conflicts and reached to the conclusion that

1. No efforts were ever made to strike a cohesion among the local communities, labour force and the management;
2. The local norms and culture hesitated to allow the aliens to interact in the communities;
3. The investors had seldom taken care of the development of the area and addressing bare needs of the people;
4. The local communities were extremely illiterate;

The intervention initiated jointly by International Alert and the SCSPEB focuses on

- To support community cohesion and resilience to radicalization through piloting conflict sensitive business practice.
- To build peace across conflict divides by strengthening and broadening business-to-business peace building partnerships.
- To support strategic implementation of sustainable, plural business partnerships for peace in Pakistan
- To engage the private sector in dialogue on policy recommendations for responsible business practices and advocate for these recommendations at a national platform

In order to achieve the objectives the SCSPEB conducted meetings to find out the real causes of conflicts through brain storming sessions, group discussions and individual interviews of the community members, the laborers and the management. Subsequently, joint meetings of the community notables and the labour leaders were held to help them share their issues and grievances. It helped developed better understanding among both the groups. The investors were then encouraged to provide some basic needs to the communities. The priority was given to provision of water through installation of tube wells, initially at two centrally located sites. These tube wells operate through solar energy which will ensure sustainability of the intervention and an example for replication. The water is shared both by the laborers and the local communities resulting in a harmony among both the groups. Local Committees have been developed which take decisions in cases of conflicts and issues. These committees have been sensitized regarding importance of peace and cohesion, imparted training in problem solving and situation analyzing techniques. They also take care of the resources provided and plan for future development. In order to minimize illiteracy among the adults a three months literacy program is also in the pipe line.

The SCSPEB field team is also working on improvement of enrolment in the schools of focused areas and reopening and revitalizing the nonfunctional schools. Simultaneously support is being given to the health department to improve the health facilities in the area. These efforts will also help in improving the resources much required and sometimes cause a conflict.

Though the change in the social structure and norms take very very long time however it is a matter of satisfaction that the frequency and gravity of conflicts among the local communities and the labours has minimized and the managers have started better understanding of the situation and reducing the number of conflict incidents.

Activities and Achievements

Afghan Refugees Education Project

- Conducted annual examination where 88% students were succeeded.
- Attribution to teachers through conduction of "Salam Teachers' day" in both Camps where teachers, students and SMC members shared their views and appreciated the vital role of Teachers in child development.
- 16 Days of Activism - campaign for "No Violence against Women and Children" was celebrated in both refugee camps where all teachers, students and SMCs members participated through different kind of activities like: speeches, poems, role play and drawings etc.
- Students' spirits elevated high through distribution of prizes among position holders during an Annual Prize distribution ceremony.
- Completion of construction of 8 toilets, missing facilities work and additional rooms according to standard in both camps.
- Swings have been installed in 11 Schools of both camps.
- Two Days refresher course of SMCs (Male/Female) has been conducted in both camps where 77 (M) and 73 (F) were trained.

Plural Business Partnership for Peace

- Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings were held to identify areas for project intervention and progress sharing of project activities and implementation of action plans in the focused areas.
- Survey of Ghot Noor Mohammad & Ghot Jamali was conducted to analyze the water problems, condition & depth of well in the areas.
- Meetings with stakeholders:
 - o Project orientation meeting with social welfare officer (coordinating person for NGOs and Govt in district Lasbela) to share work plan, survey results and current activities that are being conducted under the project.
 - o Held consultation meetings with social welfare officer, cohort members of both Ghot, CAP NGO, LHV- Mother and child health care center and DO & DDO Uthal, they discussed feasibility of Training of Birth Attendants (TBA) training for women in Ghot, provision of Education, water facility, health facility and training of unskilled labor.
 - o Meeting with DO & DDO Uthal was held to discuss non-functional School building at Jamali Ghot & Baryal Ghot and how to make it functional.
- Team contacted Mr. Ramzan Mine owner (Bela) to discuss skill development training for unskilled labor.
- Team conducted survey of children of Ghot Jamali and Baryal Ghot where 29 boys and 21 girls were identified in both villages.
- Team visited Khano Ghot & Ghot Noor Mohammad to develop the action plans. They also visited School building, dispensary and identified the female members for TBA training.



Balochistan Education Program

- Project close-out event was celebrated on 20th Nov, 2014. the event was attended by the representatives of the Dutch Embassy, Additional Secretary Education, Balochistan Mr. Mohammad Tayyab, representatives of the implementing partners IDO, SCSPEB and SEHER and representatives of the UN and donor agencies and other Civil Society Organizations.
- The Ambassador from EKN, Mr. Maxcell visited the GGHS Shafiq Shaheed and appreciated the intervention. Director Education, Provincial Director SCI, Managing Director SCSPEB and honorable officials accompanied them during the visit.
- School profiles were completed and handed over to the focused schools during the close out event.



Teacher Training Wing

- Supported government in development of policy of recruitment through NTS
- Development of modules for teaching of English, Mathematics, Science and General knowledge for capacity building of NTS candidates
- Conduction of training of NTS candidates
- Initiated work on teachers guides for teaching of English and Mathematics



SCSPEB News

- SCSPEB Managing Director, Mr. Irfan Ahmed Awan participated, as a guest speaker, in International HRD Congress 2014 & Pakistan Development Expo on Nov 28 & 29
- SCSPEB has conducted NTS preparation course under its Human Resource Development Center.
- SCSPEB is in partnership with UNICEF for the development of District Education Development Plans of all 31 districts of Balochistan
- Participated in BEP close out meeting held on 25th Nov, 2014.
- SCSPEB Manager Program, Mr. Shabbir Ahmed participated in 2nd annual APEM Platform field exercise workshop on “emergency response and management”

Case Study

Ms. Tilla daughter of Safah Khan is a 33 years old resident of Malgagi Afghan Refugee Camp (Camp No. 4). Her family migrated to Pakistan from Faryab Province of Afghanistan, in 1983 when Tilla was just a year old. Her family is a part of an illiterate extremely rigid orthodox socio-religious community proud of its traditions and practices. Her family had rich financial resources and property in her homeland and led a comfortable life so it would never even think of departing its home as a refugee. However, the atrocities and insurgency which had become a law of the Country compelled the family to migrate to save its lives and honor.

Obviously, Safah Khan Family had to experience tremendous difficulties to survive without any resources in a new country where they had to live in a Camp. It was extremely difficult and torment for a family having a respectable background. It was not last straw on the back of the torn family. It was observed that the young Tilla could not stand on her feet though she was more than one year old while other children of her age had already started walking and running. Safah Khan Family decided to seek advice of a medical consultant. It was a great shock when the doctor told that little girl had fallen prey to polio and would never be able to walk and live a normal life. It pierced the hearts of the parents who loved their beautiful daughter and saw her in a dark and disappointing future.

Time passed quickly and Tilla grew into a young lady submerged into grief and sorrow. She thought and thought but did not find any solution of her miseries. Incidentally the SCSPEB team which was supporting the Refugees, in the Camp through UNHCR funding, met Tilla. They decided to help her to come out of her present state. They encouraged her to get enrolled in the Camp school and start studying, but it was not acceptable for the family and community that a young lady may study in a school because they did not understand importance of education even not to speak of education of a young lady. However the team worked with the family and Tilla for quite some time and convinced them to allow her admission in the nearby Home Based Girls Center-HBGC. Eventually, family and Tilla agreed.

Tilla proved to be a very fast learner in the HBGC and completed her primary education well in time. During schooling she helped her teacher in teaching. Thus she learnt about teaching skills quite a bit. The Project on which SCSPEB team was working had started Home Based Girls Centers-HBGCs which catered the education of girls in the Camps through the sponsorship of UNHCR. Female teachers were scarce for the centers. SCSPEB field team, knowing the capabilities of Tilla decided to experience her working as teacher. They encouraged her to start a Home Based Girls Center at her home and start teaching vulnerable young girls of her neighboring families. She agreed! The team imparted her short training and provided other support required to setup a center.

Presently, Tilla is teaching a batch of 29 young girls in her center wherein she applies all the good teaching techniques which keep the child at the center of all activities and which are friendly for child. Her students are very regular and punctual. They love their teacher and feel pleasure in following her advice. Tilla has proved to be a very successful committed teacher. She has set a good example for others and has lit a torch for the next generation and paved way for education of girls in orthodox communities like Afghans. She has committed to continue teaching even after if she repatriate to Afghanistan.

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