

Tribal girl became advocate of Human rights

Sughra D/o Arbab Ali Lahari is a 20 Years old youth, social and political activist resident of Lashari Mohalla Thull, UC II, Thull, District Jacobabad, Sindh, Pakistan. She has done B.Sc. from Government Girls College Thull. Her father is retired from Police Department as Head Constable.

Sughra shared that due to limited resources in her family, she had started working with development sector just as completed the intermediate. Initially she joined Save the Children as a volunteer and now currently working with Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO). She further shared that as she belong with Baloch community so her community restricted her from getting education and job and enforced her to leave education and job otherwise she will be killed under honor killing case. But fortunately her mother and father supported her to continue her education and job. She expressed that she is thankful to her mother and father for their support.

Sughra further added that she was also interested in politics so had joined Pakistan Muslim League (N) party when she was in Class 9th. She also further formed female groups and organized PML in her community and vicinity. She have been now designated as the President Ladies Wing (PMLN) district Jacobabad.

Being an emerging youth, Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) and Roshni Development Foundation (RDF) conducted meeting with her and briefed about DAI/EDACE Project “Empowering Youth for Improving Social Harmony and Protection of Civic Rights”. In response, *Sughra* showed her interest to be youth volunteer in the project. And she was further selected as a youth volunteer by CSSP and remained part of replication training.

Sughra shared that there were all new information for her in the training and she had attended the complete training of 08 days. Though she had been attending different trainings in the development sector career but she considered it as a very comprehensive training and methodology was clear to understand. She learnt regarding the rights given in constitution, i.e. freedom of information, violence against women, paralegal and interfaith harmony. She further shared that before associating with CSSP and getting this training she had no knowledge regarding these basic rights and therefore she had been in face of many community issues regarding her education and job. She gave example of many girls in the society who are victimized regarding education due to feudal and cultural constraint and resistance.

After successful completion of training with CSSP, she trained group of around 15 youth including boys and girls. She believe trained youth has sprit and dedication to raise awareness among masses. She emphasized on bringing focus on cultural constraints and raise awareness for girls’ education. She believe that by educating the girls, women rights issues will be addressed and

thus it can assist in long run to minimize and end violence against women from our society. This whole awareness and ideas generated are only because of the training and awareness brought through activities carried out by CSSP and RDF in our vicinity.

Sughra shared her thoughts that with the affiliation with CSSP in project intervention, I feel that I can strongly face the male dominant society. Keeping in view her strengths and learning acquiring under DAI/EDACE project she also contested in Local Government Election from PMLN Platform. Nevertheless she was warned from feudal community to withdraw from the contest otherwise she will be killed but she didn't back from her decision and became more determinant. She shared that though she could not win the elections, but she was happy for her decision and looking forward to more success in future.