

BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 04 | June 2024



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



03

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION

08

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
OF YOUTH AND WOMEN

16

CLIMATE ACTION

20

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

23

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION



Celebrating Interfaith Harmony: Iftar, Easter, and Holi

On March 30, 2024, CSSP organized a memorable celebration in Hyderabad, bringing together people from different backgrounds to celebrate Iftar, Easter, and Holi. Community members shared homemade dishes during the Iftar, opening the fast together, and cutting the Easter cake afterwards to symbolize togetherness and inclusion. The festivities continued with the colorful celebration of Holi. With an Iftar party, Holi festivities, and Easter celebration all under one roof, this event beautifully showcased the richness of our diverse traditions. Participants expressed that despite our differences, we can come together in love and respect, creating a stronger and more united community.



Series of Joint Initiatives



From May 13 to May 21, 2024, CSSP organized a series of joint initiatives in Umerkot, Sindh aimed at reducing hate speech and preventing the misuse of religion across four academic institutions: Government Girls Degree College Umerkot, Sindh Agriculture University Campus Umerkot, Government Boys Degree College Pithoro, and Government Boys Degree College Umerkot. These events, organized in collaboration with faith actors, civil society activists, and community leaders, sought to engage youth in promoting peace and social cohesion.



The initiatives were strategically designed to address rising extremism by providing students with insights into historical and cultural examples of peace and tolerance. Discussions highlighted the poetry of Shah Abdul Latif, the interfaith messages of Dr. Harchand Rai Southar, and the teachings of Molana Abdul Rehman Jamali. By focusing on grassroots engagement, the programs aimed to curb hate speech and misuse of religion, encouraging an environment of understanding and cooperation.



Joint Eid Celebration

On April 17, 2024, CSSP organized a joint Eid celebration in Umerkot, Sindh, aimed at promoting interfaith harmony and social cohesion. The event, titled “EID Mushaira”, successfully brought together diverse religious communities, civil society organizations, faith-based associations, academia, literati, and various stakeholders. The gathering featured poets, scholars, academics, and community leaders from different faiths, who contributed to the occasion through poetry and literature. Their participation highlighted the role of art and literature in bridging gaps, promoting commonalities, and fostering connections among people. The Eid Mushaira used poetry and literature to strengthen social bonds and promote inclusivity.



Empowering Community Leaders: Training on Social Cohesion and Interfaith Harmony



A two-day training on Social Cohesion was organized by CSSP for the Community Leaders Core Group in Hyderabad on May 7th and 8th, 2024. This training brought together 30 community leaders from six union councils, focusing on several key areas essential for promoting interfaith harmony and social cohesion in the society. The training covered topics such as social cohesion, diversity, and inclusion; conflict mapping and management; the rights of religious minorities; and protection and referral mechanisms at the district level. A session on the CSSP complaint response mechanism was also included, ensuring that leaders are well-versed in handling complaints within the CSSP framework. Participants, representing diverse religious backgrounds, engaged in discussions about their collective role in societal betterment and the importance of establishing peace within their communities. The training aimed to equip these leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to promote understanding and collaboration among different religious and cultural groups, thereby enhancing their ability to resolve conflicts and advocate for the rights and welfare of all community members. By the end of the training, each community leader developed a plan for raising awareness within their communities. These leaders have been actively involved in various project activities and committees, including Fact-Finding/Peace Committees, where they address local issues, guide youth, and contribute to broader socio-economic development.

Stakeholder Meetings to Address Minority, Women, & Children's Rights Issues

The Sindh Human Rights Commission and CSSP convened two stakeholder meetings in Hyderabad & Mirpurkhas, Sindh, to address minority, women, and children's rights issues. The meeting was attended by Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission, Mr. Iqbal Detho, Senior Superintendent of Police of Hyderabad, Mr. Amjad Shaikh, Deputy Commissioner of Hyderabad, Mr. Tariq Qureshi, CEO CSSP, Mr. Noor Muhammad Bajeer, representatives from various governmental departments, faith leaders, civil society organizations, media personnel, and community representatives from District Hyderabad. The meeting provided a platform for open discussion and proposals to tackle pertinent issues to highlight public concerns and draw the attention of the district administration towards them. It aimed to facilitate an open discourse where participants could express their concerns and grievances, with the aim of expeditiously resolving them.



Community Groups Initiatives Lead to Enhance Social Cohesion



CSSP Community Groups organized 10 meetings at the Union Council (UC) level in District Umerkot. These meetings aimed to identify and address community conflicts and reactivate local community groups to raise awareness about the Hindu Marriage Act, minority rights, and social cohesion, with the goal of replicating these sessions at the village level. With the support of the Umerkot Citizen Forum and District Women Group, the CGs engaged with key local stakeholders, including district administration, local government officials, elected representatives, police officials, advocates, and social welfare organizations. This proactive approach resulted in the successful resolution of 14



community conflicts and registration of pundits and marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act in several areas of Umerkot. The efforts led to an official notification from locals.

The Community Groups (CGs) undertook voluntary social actions by organizing awareness sessions on matters including the Hindu Marriage Act, minority rights, social cohesion, and interfaith harmony across multiple villages. Elected chairpersons and councilors committed to supporting these community initiatives and further endorsed these efforts through the issuance of official notifications, establishing committees dedicated to fostering social cohesion and preventing conflicts.

Community Peace Groups Social Action Projects

CSSP and Community Peace Groups successfully completed four impactful Social Action Projects (SAPs) in Pithoro, Samaro, Kunri, and Umerkot on social cohesion and Interfaith harmony in the region. During these SAPs, faith leaders delivered sermons focusing on minority rights and the promotion of social cohesion.

Key stakeholders including the police department, local government, and elected representatives actively participated. As a result, Community Peace Committees were established at the local level, and officials expressed interest in further initiatives for social cohesion and conflict prevention.



ADVOCACY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HINDU MARRIAGE ACT 2018

In Umerkot, Sindh, where the Hindu population is significant, the absence of legally recognized marriage certificates left Hindu women and girls vulnerable to exploitation, denying them fundamental rights and exposing them to forced conversions. Despite the enactment of the Hindu Marriage Act in 2018, its implementation lagged, leaving the community without essential legal protections.

CSSP, launched the Joint Social Action project in 2018 to address the systemic issues faced by marginalized communities through the formation of community peace structures, such as Union council level peace groups and the Umerkot Citizen Forum (UCF). These groups were instrumental in advocating for policy reforms, promoting awareness, and pushing for the enforcement of the Hindu Marriage Act.

The UCF and peace groups organized numerous campaigns, workshops, and advocacy meetings to educate the community and government officials about the importance of legally recognizing Hindu marriages. These efforts culminated in the formation of a Provincial Level Advisory Committee in 2020, which was tasked with developing rules for the act's implementation. In 2022, persistent advocacy led to directives from the local government to register Pandits and enforce the act. CSSP facilitated training sessions for government officials, established women's help desks at police stations, and continued to support community-level awareness campaigns.



As a direct outcome of these concerted efforts, a total of 36 Pandits have been successfully registered across Umerkot's 10 unions to date. This achievement marks a significant milestone as Umerkot becomes the only district in Sindh where Hindu marriages are registered daily. This not only provides the Hindu community, particularly women and girls, with legal documentation to assert their rights but also enhances their sense of ownership and security. This milestone has significantly impacted the Hindu community in Umerkot, providing them with the legal recognition necessary to protect their rights and reduce their vulnerability to exploitation and forced conversions. The success of this initiative also led to CSSP's collaboration with the Sindh Human Rights Department in developing the Sindh Human Rights Policy, approved in 2023, further strengthening human rights mechanisms in the province.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN



Empowering Youth through Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

CSSP Skill Development and entrepreneurship component aims to enhance employment opportunities for low-income youth through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and business development support. CSSP focuses on delivering TVET programs tailored to the local and regional labor market needs. The training covers a diverse range of trades and skills, including beautician skills, hand embroidery, dressmaking, motorbike and mobile repairing, Early Childhood Education (ECE), digital marketing, nursing, community midwifery, health technician training, and electrician/solar technician.



In Phase II, CSSP has initiated a market-driven TVET training in Mirpurkhas and Sanghar districts, with 646 youth currently enrolled. Specialized Health Technician courses have been introduced at Muhammad Medical College in Mirpurkhas and Mehmood Academy in Sanghar. In Phase I, CSSP successfully trained 1,550 youth, with 44% or 678 individuals (333 from Sanghar and 345 from Mirpurkhas) securing employment opportunities. Additionally, 20 participants in both districts received seed grants and business development mentorship to launch their own enterprises.

Furthermore, 90 TVET graduates in Hyderabad have successfully established businesses with the support of CSSP's seed grants and business development mentorship. Upon completion of their TVET courses, CSSP assists trainees in connecting with potential employers. This support includes partnerships with Chambers of Commerce, Employers Federations, Trade Unions, and Microfinance Networks, ensuring that graduates can effectively apply their newly acquired skills and secure employment.



CONFIDENCE IN
TOMORROW?
CONFIDENCE IN
TOMORROW!

Training for Youth Leaders: Enhancing Leadership and Community Development

Training sessions for the Youth Leaders Core group were conducted over three days in Hyderabad, involving a total of 98 youth leaders selected from six union councils: UC Tando Hyder, UC Mori, UC Barham, UC 146, UC 16, and UC 39. These leaders underwent intensive training on Social Activism, Leadership, and Enterprise Development from May 13 to 24 and again from June 25 to 27, 2024. The training aimed to enhance their leadership abilities, deepen their understanding of community development, and equip them with essential tools for effective peer engagement. Sessions covered important topics including youth activism and leadership, communication strategies, international laws and conventions, and the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, with a focus on human rights and minority protection. The training also emphasized enterprise development to foster an entrepreneurial mindset and included an overview of CSSP's Complaint Response Mechanism (CRM) to guide leaders in providing feedback and filing complaints. At the end of the training, participants developed replication plans tailored to their areas, incorporating elements of youth leadership, social cohesion, international laws, and economic empowerment.



The Rising Sindh Youth Convention 2024

The Rising Sindh Youth Convention 2024 was organized by CSSP in collaboration with the Sindhi Cultural and Literary Association (SCALA) Canada at Mehran Arts Council Hyderabad on February 21, 2024. The event aimed to increase awareness among youth about various opportunities for informed career decisions and platforms to explore different career pathways while recognizing the contributions of youth playing their roles for the betterment of society.



The convention featured an expert-led panel discussion titled "Navigating Youth's Career Choices in Today's Era," presided over by Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto, Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Allah Bakhsh Soomro University of Art and Design (SABS University). The panel included Mr. Azfar Hussain, Project Director at the National Incubation Center Hyderabad; Mr. Mubashir Malik from SCALA Canada; Dr. Kamleshwar Lohana, Associate Professor at Mehran University Institute of Science, Technology & Development (MUISTD); and Dr. Amir Ali Abro, Associate Professor at Sindh University Jamshoro. The discussion covered opportunities for studying abroad, entrepreneurship, self-employment, and social patterns influencing career decisions of young people. Social worker Mr. Atta Chahanio also spoke on the role and leadership abilities of youth in promoting religious harmony, peace, and brotherhood.

Noor Muhammad Bajeer, CEO of CSSP, emphasized the joint goal of CSSP and SCALA Canada to provide more opportunities for youth. He highlighted that 65% of Pakistan's population consists of youth, who should be guided in the right direction to contribute to the development of the country and nation. The convention saw large participation from students of Sindh University Jamshoro, Mehran University Jamshoro, Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam, Shaheed Allah Bakhsh Soomro University of Art and Design Jamshoro, Sufi University Bhitshah, and youth from Tharparkar, Mirpurkhas, Mithi, Sanghar, Karachi, and other cities. Additionally, youth excelling in various fields were recognized and appreciated for their contributions to the development of the country and province. SCALA Canada awarded young emerging leaders for their impactful initiatives aimed at community empowerment.



Youth Led Media Briefing

On March 7, 2024, CSSP hosted a radio talk show on FM 88 Mirpurkhas, focusing on the challenges of balancing part-time jobs with academic responsibilities. The talk show provided practical advice on managing multiple commitments, aiming to equip students with effective time management strategies to enhance their academic performance and well-being.




On April 24, 2024, CSSP presented another radio talk show on "Youth Inclusion in the New Government Landscape." This session explored strategies to ensure meaningful youth participation in governance processes. Experts, policymakers, and youth leaders discussed how to integrate youth voices into decision-making structures and enhance their representation in shaping the future of the nation.




Investing in Youth: Skills and Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods


On June 24, 2024, CSSP organized the webinar "Investing in Youth: Skills and Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods." Moderated by Ms. Roshni Anwar, the session featured speakers Mr. Raza Sukhera, Director of Skills & Capacity Development at the Pakistan Software Export Board; Mr. Imran Khan Hara, Social Entrepreneur and Founder of Balochi Traditional Shop; and Ms. Ambreena Arshad, Youth Member. The discussion covered key topics such as emerging trends and industries for Pakistani youth to pursue for sustainable livelihoods, strategies for equipping youth with digital skills to compete globally, and the impact of the Digital Pakistan Policy 2018 on the IT and Telecom sectors. The webinar also addressed how the Ministry of IT and Telecom is working to bridge the digital divide, ensuring equitable access for youth in low-income rural areas, and explored the expected impact of the National Freelance Facilitation Policy on youth employment and entrepreneurship. Additionally, the session tackled challenges in aligning educational curricula with industry demands and the ongoing efforts to address these challenges.


 Funded by the European Union


Webinar


**INVESTING IN YOUTH:
SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**

Monday, 24th June 2024 04 PM to 05 PM Live on  CSSPPAKISTAN


Ms. Roshni Anwar
Moderator
Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)


Mr. Raza Sukhera
Director (Skills & Capacity Development)
Pakistan Software Export Board
Ministry of IT & Telecommunication,
Government of Pakistan


Mr. Imran Khan Hara
Social Entrepreneur
Founder: Balochi Shop
Technical Committee Advisory
Member UNDP


Ms. Ambreena Arshad
Youth Member
Power to Youth - CSSP

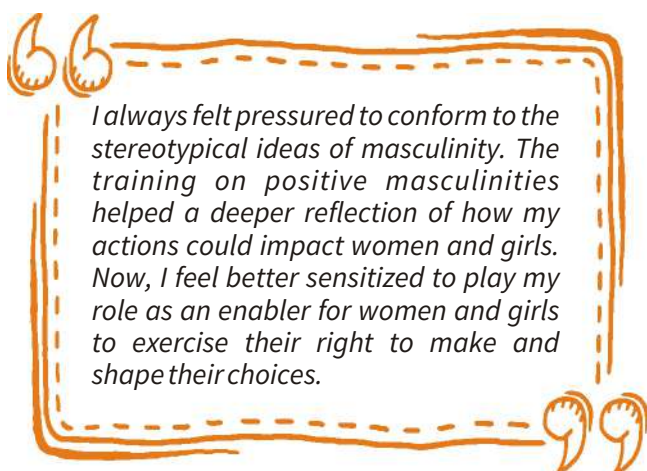
<https://www.facebook.com/100064496027766/videos/344942355299959>

Positive⁺ Masculinity

Advancing Actions & Promoting Positive Masculinity to End Violence Against Women & Girls



CSSP organized a series of transformative training workshops at Sindh University Jamshoro and SU Mirpurkhas Campus, aimed at enhancing gender sensitization and promoting positive masculinities. These one-day workshops were strategically designed to address and mitigate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) while promoting a more inclusive understanding of masculinity. A total of 93 university students participated, including 33 male and 30 female students. In addition to this, training workshops were held for members of the Community Support Group (CSG) and the Women Leadership Forum (WLF) in Mirpurkhas, facilitated by ROZAN to promote a more gender-sensitive framework in these community structures. The workshops aimed to equip participants with the tools to challenge harmful stereotypes and advocate for gender equality. Following the initial training workshops, participants implemented social action projects to apply and expand on their learning. As a result, a series of seven additional sessions were conducted in the social work, sociology, and economics departments at Sindh University, as well as in the villages of Sanwan Khaskheli and Kachi Goth. These subsequent sessions reached 478 students and community members, significantly enhancing their awareness of gender equality issues and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The sessions engaged students and faculty members through interactive activities, discussions, and presentations, emphasizing self-awareness and the broader societal impacts of GBV. Evaluations before and after the training highlighted significant shifts in understanding, with participants showing a greater rejection of harmful stereotypes and a deeper commitment to challenging traditional gender norms.



I always felt pressured to conform to the stereotypical ideas of masculinity. The training on positive masculinities helped a deeper reflection of how my actions could impact women and girls. Now, I feel better sensitized to play my role as an enabler for women and girls to exercise their right to make and shape their choices.



Sohail Junejo, a final-year student from the Department of Social Work at the University of Sindh Jamshoro reflects after he participated in Positive Masculinities training under Church of Sweden funded project in Mirpurkhas. Sohail along his 31 male and 32 female university fellows participated in the training.

Embrace
Deference

Kindness
to All

Connecting
to the Earth

Non-Violence

Consent

Responsibility

Embrace
Deference

Kindness
to All

The students who attended the training were from the communities where patriarchal mindset is still strong limiting women's and girls' autonomy and agency. Such an imbalance of power is one of the leading causes of young girls' forced marriages. It also contributes to women and girls being victims of domestic violence with no or limited access to economic opportunities.

In the training, the students were sensitized on women's and girls' rights, and issue of GBV and its overwhelming implications for women and girls. The young men learned how to be allies of their fellow women in their fight against GBV and pursuit for equal rights and opportunities.

As a result of the training a **Social Work Student Society (SWSS) has been set up at the university.** The society has male and female students as its members. They have developed an action plan to replicate learnings through training their fellow students. They aim to enlarge their constituency in challenging dominant gender norms that put women and girls in a position of disadvantage in their communities, and at their campus.



Training on Do No Harm Principles

CSSP organized two one-day training sessions on a survivor-centered approach and Do No Harm principles for 46 police officers (27 male and 19 female), along with the members of Community Support Group (CSG) and Women Leadership Forum (WLF). This training has led to significant behavioral changes within the police department and among CSG members, particularly in their approach towards women. There has been a decrease in harmful practices at police stations. This positive shift was evidenced by the proper facilitation and handling of a high-profile case involving the rape of a girl named XYZ. The police registered a FIR as per the law and provided appropriate support to the victim's parents.



Trainings for GBV Survivors

Skill Development Training

CSSP organized a three-month skills training for 18 GBV survivors, which began in December 2023 and was completed by Kafallah Trust in Mirpurkhas. The program offered dressmaking and beautician training, aimed at reducing socio-economic vulnerability and promoting community integration. Participants received vocational and financial literacy skills, enhancing their independence and resilience. The programme included networking with local support organizations and personalized mentorship, contributing to successful business start-ups. As a result, some survivors are now earning between 6,000 to 10,000 rupees per month, showcasing the training's impact.



Online Training Sessions on Psychosocial Support

CSSP facilitated six online sessions on psychosocial support for shelter home staff assisting GBV survivors. Conducted by Rozan, the sessions were attended by 9 staff members from Sanghar and Mirpurkhas, including safe house in-charges, assistants, and support staff. The training covered mental well-being, self-care, record-keeping, and safety protocols. The aim was to enhance the staff's capacity to effectively manage gender-based violence cases and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide optimal care and support to survivors.



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CSSP

Webinar

YOUTH ACTIVISM AGAINST
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)
SHAPING A SAFER TOMORROW

09-March-2024 05 PM to 06 PM Live on  CSSPPAKISTAN

Meet our Speakers



Mr. Shahzad Ali
Moderator
Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)



Ms. Roheena Shah
Gender Expert



Mr. Ubaidullah Koori
Youth Activist



Mr. Rohan Faissal Siddiqui
Psychologist and
Human Rights Advocate

<https://www.facebook.com/100064496027766/videos/931498704905843>

Watch the webinar
to learn more about how
our youth are making a difference,
from grassroots activism
to digital advocacy, paving the
way for a safer and more inclusive
society for all.

FROM VILLAGE RUNS TO MARATHON WINNER: LAALI KOHLI'S JOURNEY OF DEFYING ODDS

“ I started with short-distance runs in my village; running a marathon and winning it was never on my mind. I never dreamed about the opportunities it would open up

LAALI KOHLI



Meet Laali, an 18-year-old girl from the Kohli community in Magho Patel village, Jhalori, Sindh. Laali has defied stereotypes and inspired girls from her community through her incredible achievements in sports. Laali's journey with CSSP began in 2019 when she participated in a skill development course at CSSP's Rozgar Center in Magho Patel. Despite facing various challenges of rural life, including limited access to resources and societal norms, Laali demonstrated exceptional dedication and enthusiasm in acquiring new skills.

Following successful completion of the course, Laali continued her education while actively engaging in sports activities at the grassroots level. She embraced sports with passion, participating in various local village competitions and emerging as a winner. Laali recalled sprinting back home from school faster than the boys in her village, leaving them jealous. Little did she know that her running, initially a familial duty to fetch water from a distant village hand pump, would turn into a passion.

Laali's commitment to personal development did not stop with sports. She actively participated in various social activism trainings offered by CSSP in her village. Her involvement in CSSP's programs equipped her with valuable skills and knowledge, enabling her to make a positive impact on those around her. Recognizing Laali's passion for sports, CSSP facilitated her participation in the 1st Commissioner Marathon Race in Mirpurkhas in February 2024. Laali achieved a significant milestone

by winning the Marathon Race in Mirpurkhas district and was awarded a cash prize of 25,000 rupees, becoming the first girl from her village to achieve such athletic success. Her victory captured widespread attention, with government officials and media personalities praising her remarkable journey. In a society where girls are often discouraged from taking up sports seen as a male domain, Laali's father being wage labor couldn't afford to support her athletic pursuits. Recognizing Laali's passion for sports, CSSP collaborated with the Commissioner's office to provide support for her participation in an athletic trial at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. She not only participated in the trial but also passed her first athletic trial. She aims to inspire girls in her village that with passion and support, they can achieve anything, even with limited resources. Laali is now known for her passion and dedication toward empowering other girls from her village to come forward and take part in district-level sports competitions.

Her journey is a shining example of the impact of CSSP's Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment Program in enabling young women to realize their potential and contribute positively to society. Through her resilience, dedication, and achievements, Laali has not only shattered stereotypes but also become a beacon of hope and inspiration for girls and women in her community, proving that with determination and support, anything is possible.





Partnership with Academia to Advance Renewable Energy

The Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) has been actively engaged in advancing the renewable energy sector in Sindh through strategic partnerships with prominent educational institutions and the development of comprehensive research and policy frameworks to promote a just energy transition by harnessing technical expertise and promoting collaborative efforts. Under its initiative, the CSSP has established Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with three prominent universities to promote research and policy development.



BNBWU University



AROR University

On January 26, 2024, CSSP signed MoUs with Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University (BNBWU) and Aror University of Art, Architecture, Design & Heritage Sukkur. The MoU with BNBWU, formalized by Prof. Dr. Tehmina Nangraj and Mr. Noor Muhammad Bajeer, focuses on promoting an inclusive energy transition. The partnership aims to facilitate joint research, policy recommendations, and the exchange of technical knowledge to support the development of sustainable energy solutions in Sindh. The MoU with Aror University, signed by Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand and Mr. Noor Bajeer, aims to develop comprehensive policy frameworks and address energy sector challenges through joint research projects and capacity-building initiatives. The MoU includes participation in seminars, conferences, and short programs aimed at advancing alternative and renewable energy management practices.

Additionally, on May 13, 2024, CSSP entered into a partnership with Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), with the agreement signed by Prof. Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali and Mr. Noor Muhammad Bajeer. This MoU supports in-depth research, gap analyses, and policy recommendations, providing MUET students with essential resources and opportunities to explore key areas such as Community Mini-Grids and Hybrid Energy Systems.



MUET University

Just Energy Transition (JET) Café

The Just Energy Transition (JET) Café, an initiative by the CSSP under its "Just Energy Transition Initiative in Sindh," serves as a pioneering platform to promote dialogue, networking, and collaboration among renewable energy advocates and experts in Sindh. Launched in January 2024, JET Café is a monthly discussion series dedicated to exploring and promoting inclusive frameworks and policies aimed at accelerating a just and equitable energy transition in Sindh. Since its inception, JET Café has successfully organized five sessions, each focusing on critical aspects of renewable energy and featuring distinguished speakers from various fields:



January 2024

Speaker: Engr. Mehfooz Ahmed Qazi,
Project Director, Sindh Solar Energy Project

Topic: "Future of Renewable Energy in Sindh:
Projects & Prospects"



February 2024

Speaker: Mr. Kashif Ali, Executive Director,
Transparency International

Topic: Climate Finance and Just Energy Transition:
Experiences from COP28 and Potential for Pakistan"



March 2024

Speaker: Engr. Safeeullah Khan,
Electrical Engineer, Neom City Saudi Arabia

Topic: "Wind Energy in Sindh: Navigating
Operational Challenges and Future Landscape"



April 2024

Speaker: Dr. Ameer Ali Abro,
Associate Professor, University of Sindh
Topic: "Engaging and Empowering Indigenous
Voices: Renewables, Equity, and Benefit Sharing"



June 2024

Speaker: Engr. Abubakar Ismail,
Head of Energy & Sustainability
Topic: The Importance of Wheeling Policy
in the Growth of Renewables



Through JET Café CSSP aims to raise awareness about the importance of renewable energy, addressing the challenges, and exploring potential solutions. Through the platform, a well-informed JET community has been created to engage diverse stakeholders in renewable energy, enabling them to share insights, research findings, and experiences. This engagement has influenced more inclusive and informed policymaking and has facilitated meaningful connections between participants, speakers, and experts. These interactions have led to collaborations and consolidated diverse viewpoints and suggestions to guide future policy deliberations.

CSSP Launches District Alliances for Just Energy Transition



CSSP has launched three District Alliances focused on advancing a just and sustainable energy transition. The Sukkur District Alliance, Thatta District Alliance, and Jamshoro District Alliance were inaugurated on May 2, May 15, and June 28, 2024, respectively. The District Alliance on Just Energy Transition (DAJET) is a strategic coalition comprised of diverse stakeholder youth, Academia, Community Representative, Social Activist and civil society Organizations. dedicated to advancing equitable and sustainable energy transitions at the local level. The alliance will play a crucial role in policy development and implementation by addressing the demands and grievances of affected communities and independent power producers (IPPs). Through rigorous research and evidence-based insights, The DAJET will also aim to inform and influences energy policy to ensure they are just and effective. The alliance is currently active in building partnerships with relevant government departments and stakeholders for developing an inclusive and comprehensive Renewable Energy Framework.

Civil Society Consultation on Impacts of Coal Power Plants



On May 22, 2024, the Alliance for Climate Justice and Clean Energy (ACJCE) held a civil society consultation in Hyderabad facilitated by CSSP to discuss the adverse impacts of the Jamshoro Coal Power Plant. The consultation aimed to raise awareness among civil society about the environmental and social consequences of converting the plant to use Thar lignite coal, explore potential collaborations for advocacy, and identify actionable steps for addressing these issues. Participants voiced concerns about the potential impacts on the ecology and public health of Jamshoro and Hyderabad, emphasizing the need for strategic actions to mitigate these risks.

**WATCH OUR
WEBINARS**



Webinar

ROLE OF CLEAN ENERGY IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

26-1-2024 04 PM to 05 PM CSSPPAKISTAN

Meet our Speakers



Mr. Umair Anwar Khan
Head Manager, General Technical
NEDRA (Power Energy)

Ms. Afaf Ali
Assistant Industrial Development
Government of Punjab

Mr. Ubaid ur Rehman Zia
Senior Research Associate & Head of Energy Unit
Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

Ms. Roshni Anwar
Researcher
Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)

<https://www.facebook.com/100064496027766/videos/404076655421522>

Webinar

The Challenges of Curtailment in Renewable Energy

15-02-2024 04 PM to 04:55 PM CSSPPAKISTAN

Speakers



Ms. Roshni Anwar
Researcher
Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)

Mr. Ahmad Nazir
Head of Centre for
Private Sector Engagement,
SDPI

Mr. Fozan Waheed
Head of Social Relations
and Outreach at VESTAS Wind
Turbine Company

<https://www.facebook.com/100064496027766/videos/2141659059516417>

HEATWAVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE 2024



CSSP, in collaboration with the District Government, launched a Heatwave Emergency Response to address the severe temperatures affecting the region in May 2024. The response, which commenced on May 20, 2024, included the establishment of heatwave relief camps in Umerkot, Sanghar, and Mirpurkhas. Through these camps, CSSP provided essential relief to over 15,000 individuals, including children, women, older people, people with disabilities, daily wage workers, and travelers. Services at these camps include cold water, juices, wet towels, and information on heatwave prevention.

Additionally, the CSSP team in Sanghar conducted heatwave awareness sessions at 10 Rozgar Centers in District Sanghar. These sessions focus on preventive measures such as hydration, seeking shade, and recognizing heat-related illnesses, aiming to enhance community resilience. The heatwave relief camps in Union Council Jhol, District Sanghar, also offered critical support to over 5,000 people over three days.



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

International Women's Day

CSSP celebrated International Women's Day with a series of events from March 3rd to 8th across Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad, Sindh. Under the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress," the week-long initiative honored the transformative contributions of women and girls in community development.



During the week, CSSP conducted community-level meetings in 10 villages, including Ayoub Lashari, Sobho Lashari, and Magho Patel, to raise awareness among community leaders, young men, and boys about the importance of supporting women and expanding their opportunities. These sessions showcased inspiring stories of grassroots female leadership and resilience, highlighting that true progress depends on uplifting and investing in women's voices and contributions.

The district-level celebration on March 8th in Mirpurkhas, attended by over 200 people including

women leaders, community members, government officials, members of Women leadership forum, Mirpurkhas Citizen Forum, and representatives from Civil Society Organizations, emphasized the critical importance of gender equality and women's empowerment. Mr. Noor Bajeeer, CEO of CSSP, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to advancing women's rights and called for turning support into meaningful action. The event concluded with the presentation of Role Model Awards, recognizing women who have made exceptional contributions to women's empowerment within their communities.



World Environment Day


Our Land. Our Future. “We Are #GenerationRestoration”



On June 5, CSSP celebrated World Environment Day with a focus on land restoration, halting desertification, and building drought resilience under the slogan “Our Land. Our Future.” The theme for the day was “We Are Generation Restoration,” and activities took place across multiple districts, including Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, and Umerkot. The day featured clean-up and plantation drives that engaged local youth and communities in environmental awareness efforts. A key highlight was an Environment Day seminar held in Mirpurkhas. This seminar celebrated the achievements of young green entrepreneurs from the district and showcased innovative environmental conservation and sustainable practices. The event included inspiring success stories, compelling youth theater performances, and discussions on land restoration, combating desertification, and enhancing drought resilience. Additionally, the winners of the Environment Day video competition, which had been announced prior to the event and received numerous submissions, were revealed.

Watch Our Webinar

Understanding Climate Change, Regional Impacts, and our Role in Environmental Stewardship



Mr. Munawar Hassan
Project Manager, Strategic Change
WaterAid International

<https://www.facebook.com/100064496027766/videos/1595169477940793>

World Menstrual Hygiene Day



On World Menstrual Hygiene Day, CSSP organized menstrual hygiene sessions for young girls and women in District Mirpurkhas to educate them on menstrual health and hygiene practices in a supportive and informative environment. The sessions focused on several key areas: Understanding menstruation, Dispelling myths and misconceptions surrounding menstruation, and Menstrual hygiene practices.

Additionally, information on local resources for accessing menstrual hygiene products was provided to ensure accessibility for all participants. The sessions also included discussions on creating a supportive environment within the community for menstruating individuals and encouraged girls to share their knowledge with family and friends.

Mental Health Awareness Week

May as the mental health awareness month CSSP dedicated a whole Week for mental health awareness week with community awareness sessions, social media information dissemination and webinar including several impactful activities aimed at promoting mental health awareness and socio-economic cooperation.



Under this week, CSSP held two significant mental health awareness sessions led by Mr. Rohan Siddiqui, a psychologist and NLP practitioner. The first session took place at St. Anthony's Church in Union Council 39, Hyderabad, and the second at Union Council Tando Hyder. These sessions, attended by community members, aimed to promote a supportive and inclusive environment for discussing mental health issues. The sessions led by experts provided valuable counseling, dispelled myths and stigmas, and offered accurate information for enhancing understanding and empathy within the community, reducing stigma, and improving access to mental health resources. These sessions aimed to encourage the creation of supportive networks in the CSSP intervention areas and facilitated open dialogue. Moreover, they engaged the community in normalizing mental health conversations and integrating them into broader community life. Additionally, Mental Health Awareness Week included a Facebook webinar titled "Mind Matters: Addressing Mental Health for Youth and Employees." to broaden the reach of mental health education and engage a wider audience in meaningful discussions about mental health challenges and solutions.

The webinar featured Mr. Hasan Tahir, a wellness coach and founder of Solace, Ms. Hiba Faraz, a clinical psychologist from House of Pebbles, and Ms. Saman Rajput, a psychology student. Mr. Hasan Tahir focused on workplace mental health and the well-being of employees, emphasizing the importance of creating supportive environments in professional settings. Ms. Hiba Faraz discussed the stigma and taboos surrounding mental health, as well as the signs and

symptoms of mental health issues, highlighting the need for early recognition and open conversations. Ms. Saman Rajput addressed the mental health challenges faced by youth and students, providing insights into the resources and support systems available to them.



During the week, CSSP youth groups across the region collaborated to create an awareness video highlighting the importance of mental health and the role of youth in raising awareness. This video served as a powerful tool to disseminate information and encourage conversations about mental health within the community.



Watch Full Webinar

<https://www.facebook.com/CSSPPakistan/videos/919235523224496>

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Staff Development

CSSP organized capacity building sessions for its staff members on topics including Result Based Management, Documenting Most Significant Change, Photography and Video Storytelling. The sessions discussed in detail about identifying key results of our interventions, how we can document the most significant change stories, and the art of capturing impactful pictures and video stories. Additionally, a detailed session on the CSSP's Complaint Response Mechanism Policy and Procedures was also conducted. This session was pivotal in orienting our staff on the organization's complaint handling procedures and reinforcing our commitment to promoting the values of transparency and accountability, and also adhering to the international standards of a safe and dignified humanitarian response for our communities.



Session on Complaint Response Mechanism



Session on Photography and Video Storytelling

Strategic Planing Workshop

The CSSP team participated in a two-day strategic planning workshop, facilitated by the CSIDC, to develop the strategy for its Renewable Energy (RE) Programme focusing on Just Energy Transition. The workshop focused on understanding the importance of strategizing Renewable Energy programme interventions while taking into

account perspectives of different stakeholders, learning about power of different resources and how to leverage them in different interventions, outlining key tactics and developing timelines around them to set strategic direction of the Renewable Energy programme.



Staff Annual Retreat

On January 12, 2024, at Nagarparkar, we took a break from the routine to explore, refresh and strengthen our team bonds.



Eid Festivities with Staff

CSSP celebrated Eid with our wonderful team! The office was filled with joy, delicious food, and great company as we came together to mark this special occasion. It was an opportunity to strengthen our bonds and share in the festive spirit.



Quarterly Reviews

CSSP held a comprehensive Quarterly Review Meetings that focused on evaluating the progress of all its ongoing programmes and planning for the upcoming quarter. Emphasizing strategic priorities, the meeting served as a platform for critical assessment of all CSSP programmes including analyzing achievements, identifying areas for improvement, and planning effectively for the upcoming quarter based on the strategic priorities.



New Board Elected at 11th General Body Meeting



CSSP held its 11th General Board Meeting on April 27, 2024, in Karachi. During this session, the General Body (GB) elected a new Board of Directors (BoD) to guide the organization for the next two years. Mr. Kamleshwer Lohana was appointed as Chairperson, Ms. Hareem Soomro as Secretary, and Mr. Zubair Kiyani as Finance Secretary. The newly elected board will spearhead CSSP's strategic initiatives, continuing to advance the organization's mission with fresh leadership and vision.

CSSP Elected as Coordinator of Sindh Network

Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan - May 4, 2024 A meeting of leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Sindh was convened in Hyderabad to establish the Sindh Network, a unified platform aimed at advancing sustainable development initiatives across the province. Comprising 11 prominent organizations including the Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP), DevCon - An Association for Rural Development, Sami Foundation, PVDP Sindh, HANDS Pakistan, Management & Development Foundation (MDF), Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) Goth Seengar Foundation, Laar Humanitarian and Development Programme (LHDP), and Indus Consortium, the Sindh Network signifies a pivotal step towards promoting collaboration and synergy among civil society organizations dedicated to Sindh's progress.

