

Main Drinking water Supply Scheme.

SARUL BARRI BARI. Union Council (UC) Birpani District. Bagh AJK. Success Story of Sustainability of Development Activities Achieved under AJKCDP.

Whilst I, along with District Bagh's staff was heading to the village Sarul I had many other activities/actions in mind which we had to look over including meetings with different community organizations. Meanwhile we reached at site and I could not help myself being amazed to see large gathering of the local people comprised of various age groups from adolescents to old persons. They greeted us all very warmly and steered us to the spot where we had to formally inaugurate a drinking water supply scheme. However, soon after cutting ribbon, people of the area encircled us & proposed to visit another place where they had an old and non-operational water supply scheme. After seeing the place I was convinced to make it functional but it appeared that lot of finances would be required. Faces of the local dwellers were beaming with expectations but were also looked perplexed as they have been requesting many NGOs and Govt. departments to repair aforementioned source but in vain. We decided to help them but not with the preset 80:20 % ratio rather we needed more active role of the local populace. They were ready and finally we did it with their dynamic role and small financial help from our side. Here is more detail of this success story.

In the beginning This water tank was constructed by Tear Fund a Belgium Based NGO in 2006 in view of the fact that it was constructed by means of stone masonry and with RCC roof. Yet it could not sustain the horizontal and vertical pressure of standing water amid huge stone masonry work plus RCC roof structure. Consequently it went downwards/sinked and seeped out from many sides and could not store/hold water. Subsequently it remained discarded. Communities of the area contacted many NGOs and Govt. organizations including local Govt. Department. Technical staff of local Govt. visited area assessed and prepared an initial rehabilitation/repair estimate costing Rs 2.2 million (Tank Size: 30x32x4.5). But could not arrange required funds probably owing to financial constraints.



During Mid April 2015, I, Programme Director(PD) AJKCDP along with District Staff visited another tank adjacent to abandoned tank in same place which was financially assisted by AJKCDP and having a storage capacity of 500 Gallons, catering need of small no of households. Community also insisted on to us to repair an out of use tank (for the last ten years), which could cater/accommodate the need of large no of households of the area.



Our team quickly had words with each other on the spot, how to help them and we also asked some of the senior members of the community to join us to reach a conclusion that how to go on further as per their aspirations. In view of the fact that, we had also limited resources. We unanimously decided to disassemble RCC roof and use its iron in the base of the tank so that it

could hold water on unceasing basis and would also save handsome amount of capital. Likewise, RCC roof would also be replaced with CGI sheets. It was further discussed with the local people that we will be requiring their more help in its treatment and they agreed to take responsibility of providing non skilled labor arrangement of CGI sheets and wood tresses. Hence, local staff of the CDP was asked to prepare rehabilitation plan/estimate in cooperation with technical staff of irrigation Department. An estimation of Pak Rs 0.294 million (Rs. two lac and ninety four thousand) and accordingly it was approved in District coordination Committee, (DCC) forum under technical and financial help of AJKCDP and line Departments. Thus we along-with the community, initiated repair work and completed it within two months despite the fact that owing to the torrential rains we had very limited working days as we had to complete it before closing of the financial year, June 2015.



On 8th of July 2015 it was inaugurated/launched and we all were truly in high spirits over our combined efforts and accomplishment. Refurbished/restored tank, now has the storage capacity of around 26000 Gallon of water and it carried out requirement of more or less 1300 households. It also makes available water for seven days in case of disruption of water supply from the source due to landslide or any other reason. Local residents are now focusing on kitchen gardening to meet their domestic consumptions. Community is collecting/amassing Rs 150/household from beneficiaries except from extremely poor families, schools and mosques. This amount will be spent on operation and maintenance of the water supply scheme. Community has also appointed a plumber to take care of water supply and enjoy uninterrupted supply of water. Plumber is being paid @ Rs 2000/month and efficiently running water supply without Government line Department's help.

