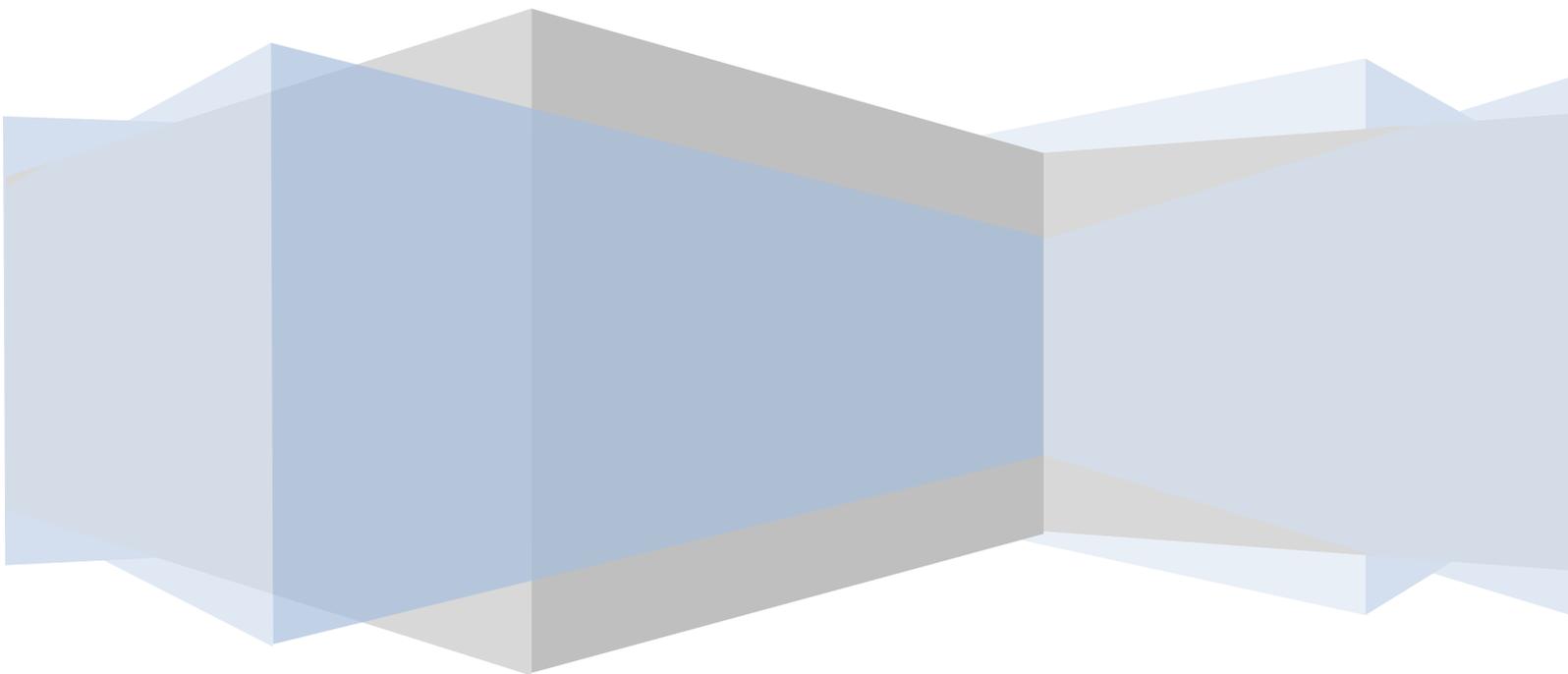


Case Study

**Of Women Survivors of Violence Living in
Villages of Tehsils Sohawa, District Jehlum
Punjab Province of Pakistan**



Case Studies

CHIP in collaboration with UNDP and DFID conducted different training workshops under GJP project. The participants of the workshops were ten citizen community based organizations from ten villages of Tehsil Sohawa, District Jehlum, and ten other community based women organizations. The workshop on “Gender and Violence against Women and CEDAW Agreement” raised awareness of the participants regarding the issue. Also, it enlightened them as to how they can bring about a positive change in society, in general, and in their homes, in particular, by improving their social attitudes towards different aspects of the topic. Likewise, the workshop on “Self Awareness” disseminated imperative information to the participants and convinced them that they can improve their lives and the lives of the people around them by a bit improved self awareness.

The immediate outcome of the workshop was the formation of “Gender Sensitive Groups” for the resolution of local problems and issues. These case studies are a source of pleasure not only for CHIP but also for the “Gender Sensitive Groups” that contributed in making these families violence-free and role models for others to follow.



Resolution Of Tension Between Two Families Means Their Prosperity Guaranteed

I am Shamim Bibi and live in a small village of Tehsil Sohawa, District Jehlum. I was living a peaceful life with my husband, Ehtasham, three daughters and a son. My peaceful life was disturbed badly when I learnt about my husband's disease, cancer. I did what I could but all my efforts for the cure ended in smoke and he died leaving us all alone. I returned to my mother's house where our family elders decided about my re-marriage with my husband's younger brother, Ikraam. Everybody knew the marriage was arranged under social pressure. My husband's behavior was not appropriate towards me. He used to cut my house budget. Ever-present tension weakened me. I had to go to my parents with my kids when Ikraam gave me a bad beating. No body felt about me nor did my husband come fetch me. None of the family elders was ready to resolve the tension between us. I often fell ill and remained depressed along with my kids. I was helpless and did not know how to come out of this trouble. It is in this context that the finance secretary of Ujala (light) Development Council, a community based women organization, came to me and asked about my problem. After knowing about my plight she went to my husband and talked to her and she got my husband agreed to fix my household expenditure. After that my husband came to see me and felt his responsibilities regarding me and my kids. I started living happily with my husband and pray for the member of Ujala Development Council who felt for my broken family and reunited it.

The finance secretary feels great after the training and resolves to make her village violence-free and a peaceful, pleasant paradise to live in.



My Daughter-In-Law Is Just Like My Daughter.

Son's pleasant married life prevents stress. Is it true?

I am Razia Begum of Amraal, a village of Tehsil Sohawa, District. I am also an active member of Quaid Development Committee for Women. I prayed and waited for my son's marriage for years. Never did I think of being in a role of traditional mother-in-law. What I used to imagine my daughter-in-law was in fact my actual daughter. It did not happen; what happened was entirely different. My daughter-in-law used to make a lot of commotion over trifles and started instigating him against other people around. She became angry with me when I tried to resolve misunderstandings. She talked ill of me with her parents. I was fed up with all that was happening around me. My obedient son started evading me. Out of tension I started quarreling with everybody, and lying depressed when alone. I suffered hypertension and did not know what to do. No body was ready to listen to me. One day I participated in a meeting of the village organization for women and learned about "Negative Behaviour, their causes and solutions." I talked about my problem to the president of the organization. The members of the organization then decided to help me by talking to my daughter-in-law who was then living with her parents. They went to her and told her about negative behaviour and the damages they can cause, and succeeded in convincing her. She got the point and returned to her husband. I feel a very positive change in her behavior. My joy feels no bounds at the sight of my son's pleasant and happy married life. Now I am convinced that son's pleasant and happy married life prevents tension.



Is Offspring A Source Of Joy Or Shame To Parents?

Families fade out if they are childless. Beyond comprehension is the desertedness even with children playing around. It is a very serious story. Raja Tabrez Ayub is an active member and convener of the Arbitrary Council Pindmatay Khan. He participated actively in the trainings arranged by CHIP under GJP project. After going through this training program and exploiting his position as convener arbitrary council he revisited women issues in his area. A problem came into his focus that he himself describes: “Ayesha Bibi had been living with her parents for thirteen years after she was married. This was because she was blamed and beaten by her father-in-law for having a love child the time she bore a child after marriage. To avoid baseless accusations, taunts and beating she had to go back to her parents. On top of all was the fact that her husband did not stand by her in this time of trial. Her son Aslam was thirteen and her in-laws totally ignored both mother and the boy during long period. She became psychopath because of the physical torture and the stigma she was associated with. During these thirteen years her parents tried their best to resolve the issue but her father-in-law stood in between, and the issue was further distorted. Aslam was very easily run over by inferiority complex. The boy was unable to find out any meaning of the tears of her mother whenever he talked about his father. It was in these circumstances that the arbitrary council came to know about this matter. We all went to Ayesha’s husband and father-in-law and requested them to settle the issue but her father –in-law refused to accept Ayesha as his daughter-in-law. We then took the influential people of the area into confidence and with them all we went again. This time with the social pressure he had to listen to us. We finally succeeded in settling the issue and placing Ayesha back with her son to her husband’s house. She is living a happy life with her husband now but the question is “for how many more years or decades we all shall be falling a victim to these kinds of stereotypes and negative attitudes and behaviour.

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