

Impact Case Study

Orientation Workshop of Local Councils Association of the Punjab



Case Study

An Impact of Orientation workshop on Local Councils Association Punjab

The Local Councils Association of the Punjab (LCAP) is ever made Association of Local Governments in the Punjab province. The overall purpose of the Association is to promote and provide coordination and a unified approach among local governments to resolve common issues and develop participatory governance for the well-being of citizens.

After the Local Government Election of 2017, it was mandatory to elect a new Board of Governors (BOG) and its provincial and district level different working committees of LCAP from newly elected representatives of Local Government (LG) in Punjab. In Local Government elections, majority of elected persons are new and first time take part in election. Therefore, it was very necessary to hold orientation sessions with all elected persons so as to orient them about the role of LCAP. Therefore, LCAP planned to mobilization workshop at divisional levels across the Punjab to develop their institutional capacity, strengthening their voices for democratic self-governing local governments. These workshops were mutually organized by LCAP and GIZ, where number of delegates from each district participated the workshops to get sufficient information on Association and prepare them to take part actively in forthcoming LCA elections. Therefore, a series of orientation workshops were organized from August 2017 to January 2018 at 10 locations of Sahiwal, Multan, Bahawalpur, D.G Khan, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Rawalpindi and Lahore.

The overall impact of these workshops were evidenced that maximum numbers of elected representatives brought on board

and developed their understanding on Association and prepared them for LCA elections. During the workshop, the participants shared their experiences, challenges to local governments and proposed their valuable suggestions on proposed structure of LCA Punjab.

Besides the general impact of these workshops, it also influenced and harnessed the individual's potential. This is a case study is one of these individuals that clearly demonstrates the positive impact of these mobilization workshops.



Mr. Shabir Hussain, Chariman Union Council No 18, District Vehari, also participated the workshop in Multan. Mr. Shabir is 45-year-old Man, reside in village 573-L, a remote village in the district of Vehari, Punjab. He was born and raised in the same village. His family belongs to lower middle class Arain family and running a small poultry business in the village and happy with his subsistent life. He is a first person in his family who took part in local election on insistence of his close friends and finally elected as Chairman for UC No.18 of District Vehari. It is surprising to know that he had never ever

dreamed about taking part in elections. However, this victory caused of many blessings and self-development opportunities in his life and raised lot of confidence in his personality.

After winning the election, He was too much scared, worried and often use to think how he will go forward for the wellbeing of his voters and community as he was not fully aware about the role, powers, authority and functions of Local Government as a UC Chairman. But, with the passage of time He gained interest in the matters.

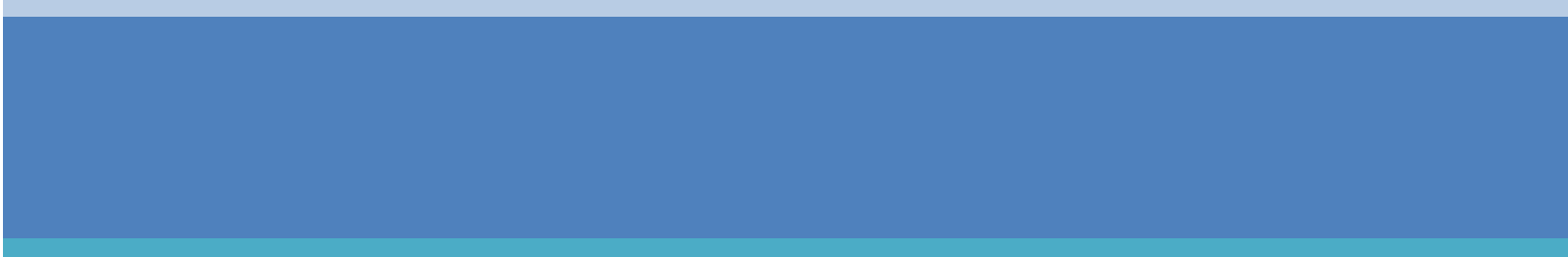
When, first time he participated a seminar held in the City Hotel, Vehari and met with famous political figure of his District and heard about the Local Councils Association of the Punjab (LCAP) and voluntarily become a member of its Digital Local Council. Afterwards, he was invited for a workshop held in Multan that gave him more opportunity to meet other prominent figures of Local Government from South Punjab. During the workshop, he took part in group discussions and experience sharing that was very interesting and he gained a lot about local government system. This workshop impressed him so much and he also participated other workshops conducted in other cities of Punjab. These workshops opened his eyes from ignorance, lack of knowledge, information and ground realities and surprised to know that "we are almost powerless and vulnerable regarding exercises of powers and authority according to the dispensation of PLGA 2013 act, and clause of 140-A. All powers and authorities of our councils are being overwhelmed by MPA's, MPA's and bureaucracy. Federal and Provincial Governments directly allocated the development funds to MNA's and MPA's. Local representatives are deprived of their basic rights and even for requisite basic training of management and administration.



Knowing about vision and objective of the LCAP, he came to understand that LCAP is our last hope who could raise and unite our voice and can take the necessary steps for restoration of our rights, meeting the challenges of local governments and conducting policy dialogues with Provincial and federal governments for real dispensation of PLGA act 2013 and requirement of article 140-A," expressed Mr. Shabir.

The Structure of LCAP also impressed Mr. Shabir that a BOG of LCA and its provincial working committees are also manifestation of elected representatives. This approach urged him to contest in forthcoming LCA District elections. Therefore, now he has shared the workshop information to his Union Councils colleagues and among peers for building networking and relationship at District level managed to win their appreciations, trust and supporting in LCA elections.

No Doubt, this workshop makes him so determined for the development and promotion of true local democracy. He always remained in touch with LCAP officials and offered his continuous support and service for the noble cause of local democracy. Observing his interest and acknowledging his efforts, LCAP offered him an opportunity to join in forthcoming international conference and exposure visit.



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