

Women Empowerment

In order to enforce women's rights as human rights in the society and empower women, Takhleeq Foundation underwent different projects in collaboration with different partners & donors.

A.) **Crafts Women's Empowerment through Skill Development & Linkages**

"Making Local Craftswomen Access to Markets"

Takhleeq Foundation in partnership with Care International in Pakistan, address the issue of women's empowerment for poverty reduction and streamlining the skill of women's embroidery workers & progressive craftswomen in four villages of district Ghotki, Sindh. Takhleeq Foundation studied market gaps & targeted 50 poor craftswomen & 5 women sales agents to link them up directly with market and financial institutions by developing their capacities for marketing their products as commercial quality.

- Need assessment of 50 crafts women identified and organize them in to five groups and organized meetings and awareness raising sessions. Five women sales agents were identified & craftswomen group was linked, who are experienced and mobile to interact with markets.
- Designer / marketing specialist developed training and capacity building plan and conducted skill enhancement and awareness raising trainings for craftswomen and women sales agents, whereas women sales agents developed their linkages to both quality raw materials and the market.
- Markets of Karachi – Hyderabad – Sukkur – Ghotki were also assessed and linked with women sales agents for relevant outlets.
- Interactive meetings were organized among financial institutions, craftswomen, sale agents at their villages and Financial Institutions shared about their service, strategy and products.
- Lessons learnt were also documented and data compiled for monitoring database & analysis and based on that analysis, a long-term proposal will be developed.

B.) **Women's Economic Empowerment through Cooperatives Development**

Takhleeq Foundation in collaboration with IDRF initiated to aware & built their capacities on cooperative farming, marketing, efficient use of quality seed and income generating activities at micro level by involving cooperative groups. Takhleeq Foundation initiated this program in five districts of Sindh viz. Thatta, Hyderabad, Naushero Feroz, Sukkur and Ghotki. Small grants support program was initiated with the women cooperatives groups in order to reduce poverty &

to make them self-sufficient and also improve income generating initiative. A concept of matching grant was introduced among the cooperatives groups and all groups were contributed by saving money from members and T F supported the matching grant to each group under agreed TORs. This seed money was for income generating projects and profit was shared on equal basis among the group members and if disbursed among the group members.

The concept of marching grant to increase the sense of ownership, Takhleeq Foundation and each group sign a MOU and agreed on the TORs to proceed this initiative smoothly. This amount only will be utilized for income generation and profit will be shared among the committee members. This total amount will be served as endowment fund for group and multiply in cyclic form. It reflected with positive impact to save their owns seeds for next cropping and also utilizing their available natural resources for the improvements of soil fertility, bio-diversity and natural resources management and cultivation of medicinal plants, green manuring crops, trees and mushrooms for their income generation. Peasant cooperatives executed income generation projects for reducing poverty, through matching grant initiatives are SEED BANKS, LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY FARMING, GOAT RARING, MINI SUGAR MILL UNITS, FISIH FARMING and POLUTRY FARMING