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## Elections

### VNC THATTA

The capital of Sindh at one time and the center of Islamic Art. Four dynasties ruled Sindh from Thatta during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. DTCE facilitated the Village Council elections that were held in Union Council (UC) Ali Bahar Taluka Sujawal of district Thatta. UC Ali Bahar comprises of eight Revenue Dehs (villages) and 89 villages. Polling stations were set up in every Deh. The taluka council passed a resolution for conducting the Village Council Elections in the union and after that the TMA issued a notification for conducting the elections. A large number of male and female voters participated with full fervor and enthusiasm. 48 male and 16 female candidates contested the elections and the overall turn out was 48%.

### CCBN THATTA

CCBN Network elections were also held in all nine talukas of district Thatta i.e. Thatta, Sujawal, Mirpur Bathoro, Jati, Shah Bander, Mirpur Sakro, Ghora Bari, Kharo Chan and Ketu Bunder. The Interim CCBN Body was formed that processed the CCBN registration documents to the concerned department i.e. EDO Finance and Planning, Thatta. The Rural Awareness and Development Organization (RADO), Thatta, (a local CSO), was hired for CCB mobilization and they conducted mobilization



CCBN Elections Thatta

trainings in all Talukas of district Thatta. Subsequently, all Chairman/ Secretaries of registered CCBs were contacted and issued memberships. 88 males and 19 females contested

the elections and the total number of votes cast were 469.

### VNC FAISALABAD

VNC elections were held in Faisalabad on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2007. UC



VNC Elections UC 420GB, Faisalabad

No. 78 of Tandlianwala town was selected for the purpose. It comprises of four villages i.e. 418 GB, 419 GB, 420 GB and 424 GB. Four village councils were formed as a result and 34 members were elected including 4 females.

Sr. #	Village Council	Males	Females	Total
1.	418 GB	6	1	7
2.	419 GB	8	1	9
3.	420 GB	10	1	11
4.	424 GB	6	1	7
Total	4	30	4	34

### CCBN BADIN

CCBN Network (CCBN) elections were held in all five talukas i.e. Badin, Tando Bago, Talhar, Matli and Shaheed Fazil Rahu, of district Badin on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2007. The Interim CCBN Body was formed and processed the documents for CCBN registration to the concerned departments (EDO Finance and Planning Badin). Shama Development Association Badin (a local CSO) was hired for CCB mobilization in the district. They conducted the mobilization campaign in all Talukas of district Badin. The Chairmen/ Secretaries of registered CCBs were contacted, mobilized and issued memberships. 41 males and 26 females contested the elections while the total number of votes cast were 327. An advocate from the District Bar Association Badin performed the duties of a presiding officer and announced the results while the Press Committee also provided press coverage to the event.

## Taking the Lead

TMA Lahor, District Swabi

In what was considered a bold step, ten percent of the development budget has been allocated for Village and Neighborhood Councils (VNCs) in district Swabi, tehsil Lahor. The tehsil council has allocated an amount of Rs. 10,00,000 in the budget for the year 2007-2008 for the purchase of tractors for sanitation purposes for the newly elected VNCs. It was due to the efforts of the tehsil Nazim Mr.



TMA Lahor, Swabi

Shahrom Khan, who initiated this effort. It was also because of the persuasion and awareness provided by DTCE that this was made possible. The decision was unanimously approved and adopted in a meeting of the TMA (Tehsil Municipal Administration) Council at the TMA office. It is the first time in the history of NWFP (North West Frontier Province) that such an allocation has been made and such a bold decision taken to promote community empowerment.

In another decision taken by the TMA Council, instead of the usual 25% allocation to CCBs in the development budget, the Council has taken a decision to increase the amount to 50%. This is proof of the fact that the CCB revolution has taken strong roots in society and is transforming lives to a greater extent.

## ENCOURAGING INCENTIVES

Performance Incentive bonuses are tools that are used to mobilize and motivate LG (local government) employees for performing better and enhancing their efficiency and effectiveness. The LGO (Local Government Ordinance) 2001/05 provides that "in every budget a provision shall be made for payment of performance incentive bonus as prescribed" (Ref: PLGO 2001/05-Section 109(7)).

### LASBELLA

The Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment (DTCE) has provided support to 45 Citizen Community Boards (CCBs) to implement their project activities in their areas. The district government and tehsils have released the first installments to all CCBs to initiate project work. Concerned monitoring committees also visit the areas to assess project implementation progress for the release of second/ final installments to CCBs.

The district government has approved Rs. 0.5 million as performance incentives to government officials who would perform well and achieve their targets. This

will not only increase the performance level of officials in the district government, but also set positive examples for others to follow. Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, district Nazim Lasbella expressed his gratitude and also termed the step as an encouraging one towards improving the performance of district government officials. He was confident that such measures would make a difference and improve the working conditions and increase motivational levels in all districts.

### TANDOALLAHYAR

The newly established district of Tando Allahyar that comprises three talukas and 19 Union Councils (UCs) is purely an agricultural belt with fertile land on both sides of the Hyderabad to Mirpurkhas road located 35 kilometers away from Hyderabad. The district government there has allocated Rs. 4.12 million as incentives for district TandoAllahyar, for the financial year 2007/08. The amount was spent only on 4-5 people last year as they had no awareness about the 1.8 million allocated in the year 2006/07. Provision of performance based incentives to the local government officials is an integral part of the

DTCE program design and DTCE is supporting its partner districts.

DTCE is working with districts for this purpose in order to create awareness and inform them about these beneficial incentives. They are facilitating them in forming TORs for government officials in TandoAllahyar as it has been declared a model district. Performance based incentives have been drafted in collaboration with DTCE along with a criteria for disseminating them. This will also create an enabling environment for better performance and motivate the state officials to achieve higher targets and will also ensure transparency in the system. The exercise involves formulating a detailed work plan along with clear targets. They have allocated a certain amount for incentives, department wise, for everyone starting from the district Nazim to the District Officer (DO), the Executive District Officer (EDO) and the Deputy District Officers (DDOs) etc. TandoAllahyar will be amongst the first district to have adopted these mechanisms. This has been a very encouraging and positive step as these incentives have been made part of the Annual Budget by the district.





## CED Turbat

In order to establish Community Empowerment Desks (CEDs), to facilitate the formation of Citizen Community Board Networks (CCBN) and also to notify and prepare the people for the Village and Neighborhood Council (VNC) elections, a DTCE team visited Gawadar and Turbat in Balochistan, for the purpose, during the month of May.



Participants during the CED

A meeting with the President, Vice President and the General Secretary of the Bar Association was held informing them about the importance of establishing a CED. The team was assured that a CED would be established in Turbat, thus it was inaugurated on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The President of the Bar Association expressing his views during the inauguration ceremony highlighted the fact that it was a very positive initiative taken by DTCE and was pleased that his members and he had been given another opportunity to serve the people. He also requested the people to take advantage of the desk and to participate in the round table meetings, to bring forth their issues and discuss them at the forum so that they could be resolved with mutual consent. He promised to extend full support and cooperation to DTCE on behalf of the bar association regarding the use of CED. The EDO CD (Executive District Officer- Community Development), Qazi Noor Ahmad, informed the gathering that ever since DTCE intervention the number of CCBs had increased from 89 to 174 and with their training and facilitation till now approximately more than 50 CCB projects had been developed and submitted to the district and respective tehsil councils. Dr. Anwar Butt, Director, Press and Bar, briefed the participants about the objectives of establishing a community empowerment desk and after its formal inauguration by the EDO CD chaired the first round table meeting.

## CCBN Workshop Kohat

A Citizen Community Board Network (CCBN) workshop was conducted in district Kohat by the CDN team. The introductory session of the workshop was conducted by Taimur Khan, of DTCE. The people were briefed about the importance of forming a network and its objectives for the community. The importance of CCBs (Citizen Community Boards) was stressed and the process of registration of CCBs was reiterated along with project proposal writing techniques.

The other sessions comprised of two segments. During the first segment the facilitator discussed the role of the network members as volunteers. The second segment comprised of team building techniques. In this session the facilitator highlighted the qualities of a good team keeping in view the existing team status. CCBN record keeping, financial management, development of action plan of CCBN etc. were highlighted during the last session of the workshop. A review session was also conducted and maximum participation of the people was seen although six women participated yet their participation was minimum. Certificates were also distributed to the participants at the end of the workshop.

## DTCE Activities In Faisalabad

### CCBN Oath Taking Ceremony

An oath taking ceremony of the Citizen Community Board Networks (CCBN) of eight towns was held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. Elected members from each town participated in the ceremony. Rana Zahid Tauseef (City District Nazim) who was the chief guest at the occasion took oath from 120 CCBN members of the eight towns. The Nazim praised DTCE (Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment) for its endeavors to promote CCBs in Faisalabad to empower the people.

### Project Cycle Management Training

The second major activity during April was that three Community Service Organizations (CSOs) started Project Cycle Management (PCM) training in their allotted three towns, Anjuman Samaji Behbood (ASB) carried out the training in Iqbal Town, Sarsabz Foundation in Jinnah Town and Human Resource Development Society (HRDS) in Lyallpur Town. ASB started two clusters simultaneously, each cluster comprising of CCB officials and secretaries from three Union

Councils (UCs). The venue for this training was Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Iqbal town and training was held from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. Sarsabz foundation also started two clusters simultaneously from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. The town Nazim inaugurated this training. CCB officials and secretaries of three UCs participated in each cluster. The venue for this training was Grace Hotel, Faisalabad. While HRDS conducted its training from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2007. It was a single cluster, comprising of CCB officials and secretaries from three UCs. The venue for this training was the UC office of U/C 168.



Oath Taking Ceremony, Faisalabad CCBN

## Inauguration Ceremony of CED BADIN



The inauguration Ceremony of Community Empowerment Desk (CED) Badin was held at the District Bar Association (DBA) office on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2007. The session judge Badin Mr. Qazi Allah Bux was the chief guest at the occasion. There were around sixty participants forty-five were members of the District Bar Association, ten were from the Press Club and four Citizen Community Board members. As the Session Judge pointed out in his speech it was the first time that any organization of Pakistan had signed an MOU with DBA Badin for legal support to CCBs of the district. The president of the DBA assured DTCE that they would provide free legal aid to CCBs and would conduct a monthly Community Empowerment Round Table (CERT).

## Community Development Workshops for Village & Neighborhood Councils at District Tando Allahyar & Mirpurkhas

Five, one-day orientation workshops were conducted in two Union Councils (UCs) of district Tando Allahyar and Mirpurkhas from 14-18 April, 2007. The Capacity Development Unit (CDU) facilitated the workshops in these districts. The workshops focused upon the following areas:

- To provide orientation to the elected Village and Neighborhood Council (VNC) members and inform them about their roles and responsibilities.
- To sign an MOU with the VNCs.
- To develop an action plan for implementation by the VNCs
- How to conduct meetings and record keeping.

The highlight of the workshop was the enthusiasm of the participants who also translated the workshop material to be disseminated in their local languages along with Sindhi. Female participation was very encouraging i.e. 18 out of 25 participants were females in the workshops held at both districts. VNC guides,

flip charts, registers etc. were also developed both in Urdu and Sindhi by the CDN team. The tehsil Nazim and Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) of both districts cooperated fully with the DTCE team and also participated in the workshop.



CDW, Mirpurkhas

## Capacity Development Workshop on CCBN - District Tharparkar and Mithi

A three day CCBN capacity development workshop was conducted at Tharparkar, Mithi from April 24-26, 2007. Twenty-seven participants attended the CCBN workshop including three females and representatives from the three Tehsils of the district. The workshop objectives were as underlined below:

- To familiarize participants with the roles and

responsibilities of the CCBN.

- To develop understanding of the participants about the CCBN Action Plan.
- To develop the work plan of the first quarter.
- Roles and responsibilities of CCBN.
- Volunteerism.
- Recap of relevant concepts of LGO (Local Government Ordinance) 2001 and CCB Rules.
- Importance of communication in networking.
- Sustainability of the CCB Networks.
- Proceedings and Record keeping of the CCB Networks.
- Advocacy Strategy.
- Development of CCBN Action Plan.

The training methodology of the workshop was participatory and interactive that included group work, brain storming sessions and presentations. Pre and post tests were also conducted to assess participant understanding of the workshops contents. At the end of the workshop certificates were distributed to the participants by Dr. Mohammad Nazir (Director Capacity Development Network) and Dr. Sultan (representative of the Asia Foundation).



CDW, Tharparkar



## Capacity Building by DTCE

Institutional capacity building is the top most priority of DTCE for its program implementation and significant strides have been made on this front.

- During the first and second quarter of 2007 several capacity building workshops were organized in different partner districts.
- DTCE maintains a robust Research Unit thus documentation of DTCE's learning processes, emerging methodologies and development of implementation and monitoring tools were regularly undertaken.
- Literature review papers were developed on topics like "New Institutional Economics (NIE) and Devolution"; and Current 'best practices' in developing Performance Incentive Programs".
- A series of in-house Program Instrument Review Workshops focusing on the CCB mobilization activities and monitoring systems were undertaken.
- The research undertaken of DSPs (Devolution/ Decentralization Support Projects/ programmes) operating in Pakistan was completed and the related survey information was disseminated.

Using the above information a GIS (Geographical Information System) was developed incorporating digital maps and a data-base of project and program descriptions and donors.

### Capacity Building of CCBs and Elected Representatives at Union level

Capacity building trainings were organized for all stakeholders be they CCB members, elected representatives or government officials. Capacity building material for VNCs and CCB networks is regularly reviewed and updated by the CDU (Capacity Development Unit) team. This material includes participants' guides, flip charts and activity charts for VNCs and CCB networks. PCM trainings were conducted in Multan, Muzaffargarh, Faisalabad and Vehari. MOUs were signed with six training CSOs to conduct PCM training programs in four partner districts i.e. Multan, Muzaffargarh, Sukkur and Naseerabad. CCBM trainings were also conducted in five districts i.e. 162 UCs in four districts of Sindh (Thatta, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur) and one district of Punjab (Sialkot). As a result of DTCE interventions at the union level 1,010 new CCBs were registered during the reporting quarter that raised the total number of CCBs to 19,432 in 37 DTCE partner districts.

### Capacity Building of State Functionaries/ Elected Representatives at District/ Tehsil Level

Capacity building workshops in collaboration with NCHD (National Commission for Human Development) commenced for local government functionaries at district and tehsil level. 17 training events covering "Planning and Budgeting" aspects of the LGO (Local Government Ordinance) 2001/05 were organized for local government functionaries. A total of 382 officials were trained in these training workshops. Another 13 training events were organized for officials on "Citizen Community Board Mobilization (CCBM) and Rules and Procedures". 238 district and tehsil officials participated in the CCBM training workshops. To enhance monitoring skills of the elected representatives, 47 training

Description	No. of Participants		Grand Total
	Male	Female	
CCBM	3268	675	3943
PCM	362	16	378
TOT of CSOs	22	5	27
Planning & Budgeting	382	0	382
Monitoring Committees	965	0	965
CCB Network	142	45	187
V&NC	457	79	536
PCR	51	8	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>5649</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>6477</b>

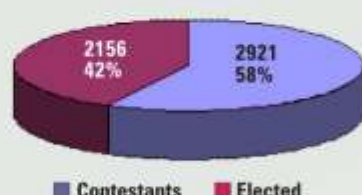
events were organized for 965 district and tehsil monitoring committee members.

### 51% Turnout Rate in Village & Neighborhood Council Elections

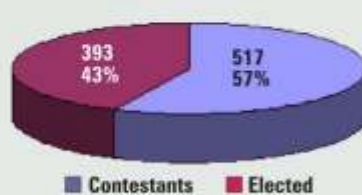
The average turnout rate in the VNC elections conducted by DTCE was 51%, something that has not been seen so far even in the local government or general elections in Pakistan.

To strengthen citizens' empowerment, elections of VNCs were conducted in eight districts for the

#### Election status - Male Candidates



#### Election status - Female Candidates



formation of Village Councils. As a key instrument of citizens' engagement at the village level a total of 386 elections were held for the formation of VNCs in the respective union councils of DTCE partner

### CCBN Elections at Tando Allahyar Female Elected Vice Chairperson and Joint Secretary

Citizen Community Board Network (CCBN) elections were conducted in three tehsils of District Tando Allahyar. It was a remarkable experience both for the people of the area and the DTCE team. The people of the area participated with full fervor and enthusiasm. The participation of women candidates was also quite noteworthy especially the fact that they were elected at two high posts. 15 candidates were elected from each Taluka and out of them 25 members (8 from Taluka Tando Allahyar, 8 from Taluka Jhando Mari and 9 from Taluka Chamar) were selected for the District body. Elections were conducted at the Taluka Municipal Administration (TMA) offices and the district body was selected at the One Window Operation office. Mobilization for the CCBN elections started on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 2007 by the One Window Operations Team and elections were conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. The election results were announced by the DTCE team at a meeting convened by them at the CCB One Window Operations Office, District Secretariat, Tando Allahyar. All thirty five members representing the three tehsils of the district were present at the occasion. The names of Twenty-five leading scorers were announced as members of the CCBN general body Tando Allahyar. Five leading scorers of the general seats were elected as CCBN office bearers while a female member Najma Panhwar was appointed the vice chairperson and another one as the joint secretary.

### Facilitating CCB Network Elections in Vehari

The District Government and TMAs are making all efforts to utilize 25% CCB funds in a transparent manner for the successful functioning of the program for empowering communities. DTCE (Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment) facilitated CCBs in Vehari to form their Network. Elections were held for tehsil and district level chapters. The process was completed with the registration of the CCB Network. It is worth mentioning that the district Nazim and District Coordination Officers are all committed to promoting community empowerment through CCBs and to making the process more viable and transparent.



Activities in Vehari

districts of Haripur, Abbottabad, Gujrat, Thatta, Badin, Narowal, Faisalabad and Sukkur. A total number of 3,438 (2,921 male and 517 female) candidates contested the elections and out of these 2,549 (2,156 males and 393 females) were elected as village and neighborhood councilors. A total of 114,588 citizens participated in these elections and cast their votes.

VNC orientation workshops were conducted for 101 VNCs during the past quarter. A total number of 536 VNC members participated in these training workshops. These included 457 male and 79 female members. The main objectives of the workshops were to provide orientation to the elected VNC members about their roles and responsibilities. The workshop covered relevant topics i.e. roles and responsibilities of VNCs and VNC action plans etc. Participants were briefed about the possible sources of funding and the significance of record keeping etc. while the proceeding register was handed over to the chairpersons of the VNCs.

### CCB Networks

CCBN activities have been in progress at different levels in 22 districts of the four provinces and their interim bodies have been formed. The registration process for CCBN has been completed in 17 districts. Elections for CCBN have been completed in 15 districts. Eight districts have also developed their work plans. To build the capacity of CCB networks capacity development workshops were conducted in eight districts i.e. Kohat, Nowshera, Bannu, Tharparker, Faisalabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Narowal and Haripur. In total 187 participants including 45 women members attended the workshops. The workshop topics included introduction of DTCE's community empowerment model, role and responsibilities of the network, basic concepts of CCB Networking, relevant concepts of LGO 2001, CCB rules, financial and social sustainability of the CCB Networks and development of CCBN Action Plans.

### DTCE Social Communication Strategy

The LCIN (Local Citizen Information Network) programmes of District Vehari and Mansehra were aired on A-TV. LCIN programmes were recorded with a guest panel of elected representatives (of all three tiers of the local government), local government functionaries and a studio audience of approximately 150 to 200 members of the local community. During the programme thematic areas of CCBs, Fiscal Accountability, Monitoring Committees and Police reforms were discussed at length. One of the aims of this initiative is to promote best practices at the local level of Public Administration, notably in relation to transparency and accountability for public access to information and justice. The media and communication unit also started the publication of a series of booklets about CCB success stories.

### Press Clubs and Bar Associations

Revised MOUs/ Addendums were signed and Legal Aid Committees (LACs) and Press Committees (PCs) were formed in three partner districts i.e. Loralai, Nowshera and Turbat. Two Community Empowerment Desks (CEDs) have been established in two districts i.e. Nowshera and Turbat. 646 CCB members, notables, press and bar members participated in 19 Community Empowerment Round Table (CERT) meetings held in ten partner districts. CEDs in Kohat and Haripur are already working smoothly and settling CCB issues.

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# Donors Visit

## *Sukkur, Khairpur, Lasbella*



Arrival of guests at Khairpur, Sindh.



TMA Kingri, Khairpur briefing the delegates.



CCBM Workshop session, Sukkur, Sindh.



The Taluka Nazim, Khairpur extending his hospitality.







The Grand Faiz Mahal at Khairpur.

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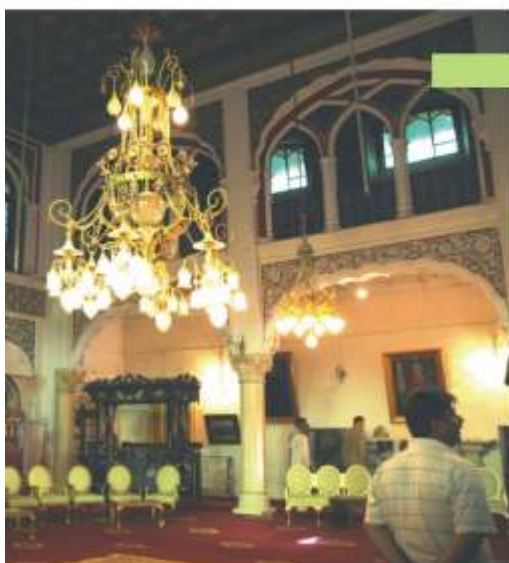


Delegates observing the VNC dialogue at Taluka Kingri, Khairpur

7

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Guest along with the DTCE Team visiting the Female CCB Project at Sardar Ji Bathio, Khairpur.



Inside the Faiz Mahal, Khairpur.

6



Tea hosted by the District Nazim Lasbella in honor of the guests.

9



## Making Her Mark In A Male Dominated Society

### The First Woman VNC Chairperson of Punjab

**T**he birth place of our most famous and controversial poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz. House to Kartar Pur Darbar of Baba Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion. Known for producing the best export quality rice and also known for the best mela's (carnivals) like the Abdus Salam Chisti Mela and the Ali Pur Sayedan Mela; Narowal is a cultural hub of Pakistan full of diversity; and the people of the area are full of determination and a will to bring about change; thus it does not come as a surprise that the story of this woman and her courage stem from there...

بہار آئی تو جیسے یک بار لوٹ آئے ہیں پھر عدم سے وہ خواب سارے۔۔۔  
(فیض احمد فیض)



VNC Chairperson, Bashiran Bibi

"I owe my success to my parent's prayers and belief in me," says Bashiran Tabassum of Union Council (UC) Sukkho Chak, village Ratochak 1, Shakargarh, Narowal. She was elected Chairperson of the Village and Neighborhood Council (VNC) Sukkho Chak in the elections held there on 15-16<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Bashiran is a brave woman who belongs to a village where most people live below the poverty line and health and education facilities are almost non-existent. Most people of the village are either involved in some small business or agriculture activities. The UC is 20 kilometers from Shakargarh and also shares a border with Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Chairman DTCE Daniyal Aziz awarding the first VNC Chairperson

It is here that Bashiran dared to rise in a purely male dominated society. Her parents educated her despite their humble background and she completed her F.A. Although she was married young and became a housewife yet she was always involved in different social activities and calls herself a 'social activist'. She has always helped the people of her village, be it men or women and does not work for any NGO (Non Governmental Organization) or CBO (Community Based Organization). She was motivated to take part in the VNC (Village and Neighborhood Council) elections by the DTCE (Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment) team that was visiting their UC to mobilize the people. She saw in this an opportunity to help her people in a better and proper way and decided to contest. "Initially I thought that my husband would not support my decision but I was surprised to learn that he along with my family and friends supported my endeavor fully."

The main reason behind her taking part in the VNC elections, she reiterates, was because she wanted to empower the women of her village and to improve the quality of the lives of all the people and also to ensure a better and safe future for their children. Most of the girls in her village cannot afford a decent education she informed us. "I want to promote free education especially for girls in my village since mostly they are ignored or have to give up their right to education in favor of their brothers", she stressed. She confidently voiced her aspirations and vision for her people and the women of her village before a

gathering of at least two thousand people in the speech that she delivered after being elected Chairperson. "We should encourage our younger generation especially girls since they are forced to adopt a submissive role in our society and I want to start a vocational training center for the women of our village. This will not only make women self sufficient but they will also lend a helping hand to their husbands/ fathers in supporting their families. This will also create better economic opportunities for them. I also want to start a dispensary in my village since there is none at the moment and our people have no medical facilities," she said confidently.

Bashiran has joined office with full force and the will to bring about change in the lives of her people. She has the full support of her family, her husband, her children and the people of her village (both men and women). She is educating her three children also. For a housewife to face a gathering consisting mostly of men and making such a passionate speech was quite encouraging to see. It is also worth mentioning that the support she was given by all the women of her village was remarkable. It is this confidence that is part and parcel of the local government system being promoted by DTCE, which was imminent from the speech of the first woman chairperson of Punjab and which will change the lives of future generations.

#### SHAKARGARH

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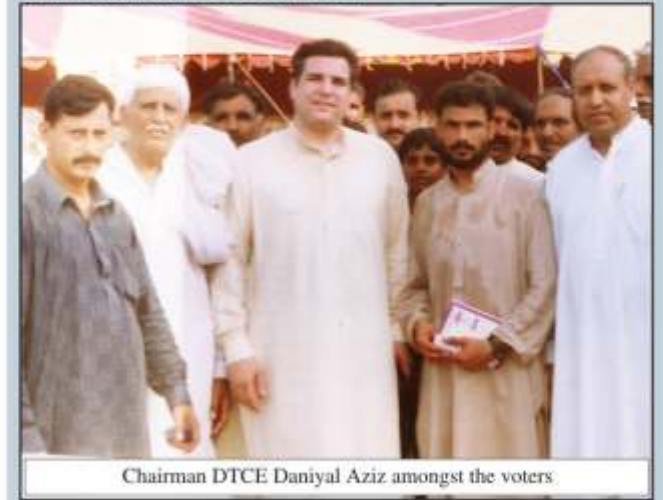
DTCE facilitated the VNC elections in Narowal, Shakargarh. The process started with mobilizing the community and conducting village level meetings in order to create awareness amongst the people about VNCs. Orientation meetings were conducted and consultations held for the Union Nazims and other village notables educating them about the election process. CSOs (Community Service Organizations) were also mobilized by the DTCE teams along with the police who were engaged under the Community Police Relations (CPR) program in order to maintain law and order and to ensure that free and fair elections could be carried out.



Zafar Hayat Malik (NPD/CEO) addressing the VNC Ceremony  
Waseem Ashraf (MFOT) seen in the background

Ballot papers were prepared for each village while an integral framework was developed for the monitoring, supervision and addressal of grievances.

The total seats allocated in 20 UCs (Union Councils) were 2,250 for general members, 430 for females and 430 for peasants and laborers in 403 village councils and 27 neighborhood councils in tehsil Shakargarh, district Narowal. The nominations received for general seats were 2,640 i.e. 528 for females and 541 for peasants and laborers. The total number of registered voters were 213,317 in targeted 20 UCs while the votes cast were 84,119, with a turnout rate of 40%.



Chairman DTCE Daniyal Aziz amongst the voters





## The Peer of Khairpur

**H**e belongs to a political and religious family, the Jilani's Peer's of Ranipur, yet he works with humbleness and a desire to alleviate the suffering of his people/ followers and to improve the quality of their lives. Possessed by a candid and cordial disposition that complements his good looks, the district Nazim Khairpur, Pir Syed Niaz Hussain Shah Jilani allowed 'Awam Ki Awaz' a look into his work and life...

### Q. From where did you receive your early education?

"My early education i.e. primary and secondary schooling was from Sukkur Public School and I graduated from Shah Abdul Latif Bhatai University, Khairpur. Then I went to USA for completing a course in Law Enforcement from the University of Illinois, California."

### Q. How did your political career start?

"Our family settled in Khairpur some 600 years ago. Politics has always been akin to our family, my brothers are also in politics and one of my brothers is a taluka Nazim. And since I was brought up in a political environment I developed an interest in politics from a very young age. But most of all I was inspired by my father, who was a remarkable human being and loved to help his people. My eldest brother who is the *Sajjada Nisheen* (heir to the seat) of the *dargah* (shrine) is also a source of inspiration for me. As it is a tradition in our family that the eldest son is always the *Sajjada Nisheen* and he is not allowed to enter politics since worldly designations taint the spiritual being and he is supposed to stay within the realm of spiritualism.

Thus my transition into politics was very smooth. I was elected chairman Divisional Khidmat Committee Sukkur division and also participated in the provincial and National Assembly elections."

### Q. Do you have any other professional engagements?

"I belong to a family of *zamendars* (landlords) so I carry out my duties as a *zamendar* along with performing my duties as the district Nazim."

### Q. What made you join politics?

"As I mentioned earlier I belong to a political family thus it was imminent that I join politics. But I joined politics with a vision to help people and for the development of my area."

### Q. What was the motivating factor behind becoming the District Nazim?

"Firstly, it was to help my people and then to further development in my area. And I have to thank my party leaders and members who supported me fully and I had the blessings and support of 324 of my party leaders; I belong to PML F and had full support of Pir Sadaruddin Shah Rashadi and the people of my district. Although it was initially a party decision yet now the change I have brought about in the system and the fact that the local government system has taken root in our district proves that their decision was beneficial for the people. We are aiming to strengthen all the three tiers of the local government system. And we see that policy making and decision making is taking place at the UC level in our district."

### Q. What have been the district development highlights during your tenure with specific reference to DTCE's programs?

"Sincere efforts have been made towards promoting team work and development in all sectors implementing the LGOs model of good governance. We have carried out several initiatives in different sectors:

1. To strengthen and fully empower the community people

at large as well as taluka Nazim's, union Nazims, councilors and other stake holders at grassroots level.

**2. Education:** Ninety percent schools were non-functional and we re-started them. We also completed the construction of shelterless schools, constructed new ones and completed incomplete ones. Class rooms were added and facilities were improved with the cooperation of NCHD, UNICEF and ESRA. Additional funds of Rs. 500,000 were given to each Higher Secondary School, Rs. 300,000 to Secondary Schools, and Rs. 100,000 to elementary schools for day to day expenses. We also started scholarships worth Rs. 2500,000 for eligible students.

**3. Health:** Upgradation of 16 BHUs (Basic Health Units) to RHCs (Rural Health Centers). Provision of new modern health instruments and machinery. 100% increase in medicine budget in all the health institutions and purchase of eight ambulances.

### 4. Community Development:

- i) Registered 1,400 CCBs including 115 exclusive female CCBs. Approved 470 CCB projects by the district government at the total cost of Rs. 302,000 million. 400 projects were completed and 70 projects are under completion for the year 2006-2007. We have allocated Rs 61,300 million for CCB schemes for the year 2007-2008.
- ii) We have established Community Emergency Response Centers at Khairpur and this year in Ranipur.
- iii) We have established shelter houses, career support centers, women facilitation centers and legal aid centers for women.
- iv) We have also established sales and display centers for the development of local handicrafts under the scheme of 'Aik Nagar Aik Hunar', and the 'Khals' development and production center at Amb village.

**5. Information Technology:** Established the Khairpur Internet program (Khairpur ISP). Established the District Government website i.e. [www.khairpur.gov.pk](http://www.khairpur.gov.pk) and its IT center and promoted IT education in all institutions.

6. Developed the entire communication and road network from the market to the residential areas throughout the district.

**7. Sports:** Increased the sports budget for the promotion of sports activities and facilities at taluka level.

**8. Law and Order:** Provided 25 motor cycles to the police in order to control street crime.

Apart from all this to come up to the expectations of the people is a very tough and challenging job yet I am trying and am also enjoying it."

### Q. What challenges did you face during the implementation of DTCEs program activities and how were they overcome?

"Improving the monitoring system was a challenge but we have managed it with support from DTCE. Skilled human resource is also a bit of a problem but we have started several training facilities for the purpose and we are filling up this gap now."

### Q. How has DTCEs program empowered people in your district and how can it further assist you in its program implementation?

"DTCE is doing a marvelous job as far as social mobilization of the people is concerned by providing information and training through introducing CCB schemes in all the 75 union councils. They also introduced 31 schemes to female CCBs of the district, developed ownership and put our people on the path to progress and self sustainability."

### Q. What challenges did you face while realizing your development vision for the district?

"Improving the skills and capacity of the officers and elected people in the field for better planning, budgeting and execution of projects was initially quite difficult, however we did manage it. Shortage of financial resources was also a challenge."

### Q. How proactive are the women of your area and what is their role in development activities with special reference to CCBs?

"We have always welcomed women CCBs in our district and our approach towards the capacity building, empowerment and development of women has always been very positive. Most of the women in our family are also educated especially the new generation as we believe in leading by example. There are 115 exclusively registered women CCBs and more than 100 women CBOs (Community Based Organizations) actively engaged in community development activities in the field of education, health care, vocational training and providing micro credit for women in order to start small businesses."

### Q. What suggestions would you like to give DTCE with special reference to your district for improvement and where do you think it needs to do more?

"DTCE is doing remarkable work in Khairpur and we have been working in collaboration with it to strengthen the local government system in our district i.e.

- i) The creation of village and neighborhood councils in all the 76 union councils.
- ii) Strengthening and activation of monitoring committees at district, taluka and union council level.
- iii) Capacity building of local council employees.

I just hope that they will continue with the same vigor and vision in order to promote community empowerment."

### Q. What is your future vision for the district and its people?

"I would like to improve the quality of life of each and every person of my district and bring further progress, development and prosperity to them, to create a sense of responsibility



amongst them, strengthen decentralized authority and empower them at various levels. Also to maximize the use of resources, to promote merit and to give the people a sense of direction. The creation of economic generation activities, development in the agricultural sector and to create employment opportunities in all sectors are some of the targets I am aiming at. We have also planned some mega projects with the support of the provincial and federal government for development of our area and people. Thus, I hope to make our district a model for others to follow and I am very hopeful that I will succeed in doing so."

## Log | Q&A Kehtay Hain

### Issues Raised During CERTs

A total of 72 issues have been raised so far in different Community Empowerment Round Tables (CERTs), held in districts Haripur, Badin, Kohat, Narowal, Mirpurkhas, Nowshera, Sukkur, Tanodoallahyar, Tharparker, Thatta and Turbat. DTCE and Legal Aid Committee (LAC) facilitated the complainants as per requirements of the issues raised.

### Misinterpretation of CCB Rules 2003

During CERTs 23 cases regarding the misinterpretation/ misunderstanding of CCB (Citizen Community Board) Rules were raised. In many cases CCBs were unaware of the relevant Local Government tiers that should be contacted for their specific CCB project. As a result their projects were not approved and they were not aware of the reasons either. Thus they were informed during the CERTs about the right procedure of submitting CCB projects as CCB Rules are in the process of being revised. In some cases CCBs complain about the lack of knowledge regarding the functioning of specific committees for example, Account Committees (ACs). They were

advised to attend the PGM training learn more about the functioning of different committees. These cases constitute 32 % of all issues raised during CERTs.

### CCB Registration Issues/ Elite Capture

14 cases highlighted during the CERTs constituted issues pertaining to CCB registration process. Participants complained about the complicated procedures for the registration of CCBs required by the Local Government functionaries for example in District Kohat the Executive District Officer (EDO) was asking CCBs to get Police verification or the approval of the Zila Nazim for CCB registration, which is against CCB Rules. The EDO was then contacted by the Legal Aid Committee (LAC) and was told to discontinue this practice as no Police verification or Nazim's approval was required for CCB registration as per CCB Rules. These cases constitute 19 % of all the problems highlighted.

### Project Approval/ Favoritism

As many as 16 cases raised during the CERTs pertained to CCB project approval. One of the main issues regarding this problem was the purchase of skill center equipment in district Haripur. This issue has been raised persistently by the participants especially by women CCBs in district Haripur since the last few months. They were of the view that the Local

Government Haripur was not entertaining any CCB project pertaining to purchase of equipment of skill and technical centers. According to CCB Rules projects related to community welfare, establishment of technical and skill centers (women skill centre, computer centre etc.) can also be undertaken through CCB schemes. NRB was contacted by DTCE to take action against this decision. They contacted the Local Government Department NWFP to solve the issue and in response, the Local Government Department NWFP lifted the ban on the purchase of equipment for skill centers.

### Lack of Funds/ Subsequent Release of Funds

This is another important problem which is mostly being raised by the participants in the roundtables. 15 such cases were brought to the fore by the participants in different roundtables. In many cases CCBs complained about the delay in the release of the second installment for the CCB projects by the finance department of the Local Government. The finance department was advised to release the funds on time. Thus in district Tanodoallahyar they released the second installment for CCB projects. In district Kohat the issue of not funding women CCB projects was raised. DTCE intervened and informed the Budget and Development Committee (BDC) that it had no authority to block or to reject the release of funds to any CCB project.





## Donors Visit Khairpur, Sukkur and Lasbella

Ruled by the Mirs (ameers) of the Talpur Dynasty from 1783-1955. Mir Ali Murad Khan Talpur II who was educated at Cambridge was crowned the ruler of Khairpur state when he was only eighteen, in 1952. He initiated a series of democratic reforms in Khairpur, ended his family's traditional feudal hold and turned it into a prosperous state decorated with architectural masterpieces, an exemplary judiciary and an independent legislature. After the state acceded to West Pakistan in 1955 he adopted a life of seclusion and confinement. He also transformed his family's privately owned game reserve or *shikargah* called Mehrano near Kot Diji into a wildlife refuge. The refuge is home to the largest herds of Black Buck (*Antelope Cervicapra*), and the Hog Deer.

Another landmark is the Faiz Mahal (Faiz Palace) or Lakhi Bungalow in Khairpur Mirs the capital of Khairpur, where the royal family hold public *majalis* (meetings) during the month of Muharram once a year. A sprawling molded brick palace with its façade decorated by Jaipur sandstone, the Faiz Mahal was built two hundred years ago and its furnishings have remained unchanged over the years. The family crest is displayed prominently in the large, chandeliered reception hall. Portraits of the Mirs of Khairpur adorn the walls. To foil this grandeur, water seepage from the nearby British-built Rohri canal is threatening the foundations of the Faiz Mahal and has already ruined its flooring. Faiz Mahal is now only used for the family's public interactions. The Kot Diji Fort also deserves special mention here, which is another famous landmark of Khairpur. Besides these there are other palaces, and tombsites in Kot Diji and surrounding areas.

(Courtesy: <http://www.un.org.pk/undp/sqp/green-pioneers/chap-16.htm>)

April was a fruitful month as far as donor visits were concerned as DTCE (Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment) had planned a visit to Khairpur, Sukkur and Lasbella. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the donors with DTCE's work in its partner districts in Sindh and Balochistan. This three day visit was planned from April 16-18, 2007. The objectives of this visit were to provide an orientation of DTCE's model components and to give a practical demonstration on how DTCE is empowering communities and strengthening the local government system.

The activity proved very effective as the donors learnt about the ground realities and also got an opportunity to mingle with the people of each district. The delegation met with the community, VNCs (Village and Neighborhood Councils), CCB (Citizen Community Board) members, UC (Union Council), tehsil and district level representatives. They had informal and frank discussions with the community members and elected representatives.

The visit started with a practical demonstration of the CCB mobilization training at the UC *Bachal Shah* office in Sukkur on April 17<sup>th</sup> and from there the delegation proceeded to Khairpur the same day. The delegation attended a dinner hosted by local CSOs (Community Service Organizations) at *Kehkashan* hotel located at the national highway connecting districts Sukkur and Khairpur, the night they arrived. This proved to be an orientation preparing them for the days ahead as they were treated to the local flavors of the area amongst light discussion. On the occasion the acting CEO, DTCE, Zafar Hayat Malik, presented gifts of local handicrafts to the delegation and formally welcomed them.

In Khairpur the delegation attended a briefing by TMA (Tehsil Municipal Administration) *Kingri* followed by a Village Council meeting in UC *Sadar Ji Bhatio*. The delegation also visited CCB projects and shared their experience with District Nazim Khairpur and other officials. They visited the DPO (District Police Officer) office and were given a demonstration of the Police Station Monitoring Information System. The DPO also gave an orientation on data entry, reports generated and utilization of data. The delegates had a detailed meeting with the DCO (District Coordination Officer) and all EDOs (Executive District Officers) in the committee hall, District Government Lasbella, followed by a visit to a CCB project sponsored by DTCE.

During the debriefing the donors expressed their satisfaction about DTCE's work and appreciated the motivation and spirit of its team members. They assured continuous support to DTCE and its activities. The group was highly impressed by the community meeting and with the commitment of the District Nazim Lasbella. They were also impressed by the CCBM (Citizen Community Board Mobilization) and UPSC (Union Public Safety Committee) training that they attended in Sukkur and Lasbella especially the session in which the DPO responded to the questions of the delegation on Police Relations Program. The delegation also attended the CCBM session being conducted by DTCE partner CSO Indus Resource Center (IRC) at UC Ali Wahan, tehsil Rohri, Sukkur. As the UC belongs to the opposition benches of the district government, this gave the delegates an opportunity to observe the whole process and the different points of view of the members. The issues raised during the discussion and Q&A session were; the transfer of funds and powers to the UC, centralization of taxes etc. According to the delegates through this process skills and expertise could be transferred to the people which in turn result in creating ownership and responsibility amongst them.

The delegates urged DTCE to develop a regular feedback and information sharing system in order to update the donors and other institutions working in Pakistan about their activities and achievements. They were informed that DTCE not only networks with other organizations but also provides an enabling environment to CCBs for their survival even after DTCE support is lifted and supports other such initiatives also.

The visit to the historical palace Faiz Mahal and the warm hospitality of the Talpur's, the former rulers of Khairpur is also worth mentioning. The delegation appreciated DTCE's work and commitment and thanked it for organizing a visit for them and for providing them with an opportunity for learning more about their work. They were also impressed by the architecture of the historical Faiz Mahal and its grandeur.

## PCM Training in Multan and Muzafargarh

DTCE has initiated Project Cycle Management (PCM) Training for CCBs to develop need based projects for communities in Multan and Muzafargarh. DTCE has formed a partnership with Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in Multan and SYCOP (Social Youth Council of Patriots) in Muzafargarh. They have trained 140 representatives of 68 CCBs in these areas who have prepared 150 projects. Mr. Faisal Mukhtar Nazim CDG Multan and Syed Wajid Ali Shah are committed to promoting and supporting CCBs in District Multan. A CCB cell established by DTCE also provides assistance to CCBs for registration and project submission. Sardar Abbas Dogar and Jam Sajid Ponta Tehsil Nazim and Naib Nazim Muzafargarh have also extended maximum support and are committed to supporting CCBs and have approved 18 projects worth Rs. 7.6 million submitted to the Tehsil Council.



Participants of the PCM training

### CONTINUATION

#### Press Clubs and Bar Associations

A number of DTCE activities, issues, faced by CCBs, CED inaugurations and problems indicated in CERT were highlighted by the local media in the partner press clubs. Articles on CCB awareness and issues were also published. A total number of 44 news items on CERTs have been published. In all 572 news items appeared in the local press in following districts; Abbottabad, Bannu, Charsadda, Dir Lower, Gawadar, Karak, Khairpur, Loralai, Mansehra, Naseerabad, Vehari, Gujrat, Lahore, RYK, Sialkot, Narowal, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Nowshera, Haripur, Swabi, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, Tandu-Allah-Yar, Badin, Thatta, Lasbella, Zhob, Turbat, and Pishin. 32 articles have also been placed in the local press in this quarter. The local press highlighted DTCE activities, CCB related issues and successes and also created immense awareness relating to the formation of CCBs. 572 news items and 32 Articles appeared in the local press from 30 partner districts.

#### UPSC CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

A capacity building workshop on the role and working of the Union Public Safety Committees (UPSCs) was held in district Lasbella in which 59 (51 male and 8 female) Chairpersons/ Members of UPSCs of 22 UCs were trained. The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of participants for conducting *Khulli Kacheries* (KCs- open courts) so as to promote public safety and police community relations. Thematic areas included the concept of public safety, and importance of public participation in related police initiatives; provisions of LGO (Local Government Ordinance) 2001 and Police Order 2002, role of UPSCs to act as monitoring committees and for organizing and facilitating *Khulli Kacheries*; enabling members of UPSCs for effective advocacy initiatives in follow up to *Khulli Kacheries*; to develop understanding regarding the role and functions of UPSC and how best these could establish partnerships with the police to benefit the general public and to develop institutional linkages by involving the District Police, DPS-PCC and elected representatives of local community through signing of MOUs.

PSMS (Police Stations Monitoring System) has been working successfully in Haripur, Lasbella and Khairpur where 6507, 819 and 1300 FIRs were registered in these districts respectively by 30-06-2007. A fully furnished, renovated and equipped PSMS office was established in DPO office Lasbella also. A code of conduct for Police issued by the Provincial Police Officer Balochistan and printed by DTCE was displayed in all 11 police stations and offices of the UC, tehsil and district Nazim of district Lasbella in compliance with section 114 of the Police Order 2002.



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