

A CASE STUDY OF VILLAGE MIRZA DHER

(TEHSIL TANGI DISTRICT CHARSADDA)

Case Study:

I started my journey toward village Mirza Dher where we already had planned an ASER Baithak with the help of local community and the Government school teacher. I reached the school one hour before the meeting time where I met with one of the volunteers who is doing his Phd, Mr. Mujeeb ur Reham. He was very keen to know about the results of their village regarding education status. He said that he wanted to volunteer for Education, and teach for free. He said that he had come thus far only to be part of the ASER Baithak.

During meeting when the result card was shared with the community, it was shocked to know about the children assessment results and was astounded to know that many of their children don't even know how to write and speak in most basic subjects of Urdu and English, as well as showed extremely poor Arithmetic skills. The community showed keen interest in knowing the results of the children of their village. The number of out of school children was also discussed.

After presenting the brief report card of the village with the community all the parents and the community was raised questions with the Head Teachers of the said village school about the reasons for their children's abysmal learning levels. The unique thing about ASER is that it brings both the supplier and receiver of education on a single platform. On the question why their children have so much poor results the community was of the view that the teacher did not inform the parents of the children on time about the status of education of their children. This could have led to an exchange of words between the community and the teacher. However, to diffuse the situation, the ASER team interrupted and asked the Head Teacher to share the exact reason for the abysmal learning levels to the parents. The Head teacher shared that he is only one teacher in the school and he have to manage 5 classes and he had reported this to the Education department already. This was indeed a very frank discussion between the teachers and the parents, and so certainly justified the importance of ASER Bethaks in that it brings on one platform all relevant stakeholders in education, thus bridging the gaps.

SMC member were also present at the meeting, so they decided to identify the potential volunteers who will teach the children of the school in the school on volunteer basis. The retired army officer was also present in the meeting. He said that his son is doing graduation from Peshawar and nowadays he is free and at home so he will help teach in the school. SMC members along with some of the community elder agreed to have a meeting with the DCO and EDO of the respective district to provide more teachers to the village school.

Four person committee from the village were nominated in which they assured that they will bring out of school children to the school after mobilizing the parents of out of school children.

The Bethak was instrumental in that it firstly led to frank conversation between teacher and Parents about the predicament of children's learning. In this way, it certainly helped in breaking the myths parents hold about teacher negligence, while also stressing on the understaffing of schools. On this occasion, community volunteers came forward to work as volunteers for education. ASER is all about ownership, and this indeed proved to be the case.