ASER helps in Building Capacity of Lodhran DMO Office
Case Study Lodhran

It is interesting to see that ASER has not only helped in advocacy but has also helped the Education Department build capacity. The making of the District Report Card (DRC) was an attempt at helping the Education Department having access to a one-page document which has crisp and to the point data on the most important items on education.

In getting the DRC filled in district Lodhran ASER Team realized that it was not only helping in pushing government to collect and synchronize data but was also helping in building capacity as far as software installations are concerned. When the District Monitoring Office, Lodhran was approached to access data for the DRC it was revealed to us that they would have to go over thousands of files in order to retrieve consolidated data for us which would take a long time. This was perturbing for us as we had witnessed in other districts that Education Offices were utilizing a software called ‘SQL Server’. **Microsoft SQL Server** where queries could be run and data could be retrieved in minutes. We shared this information with the lower staff at the DMO office who was not aware of what we were talking about and then we asked the DMO about it who agreed that this software was still not available in the Lodhran office.

On hearing this, we immediately used our contacts in Bahawalpur Education Department office and requested them to provide/give access to Lodhran office of this software. Within a day Lodhran office had the software and the DMO briefed his support staff about it.

Even though the purpose of getting the software to Lodhran office was primarily for retrieving information out of the data base quickly for filling the DRC but we know that in the future too Lodhran office will greatly benefit from this and will be able to run queries for their own projects.

**Microsoft SQL Server** is a relational database server, developed by Microsoft: it is a software product whose primary function is to store and retrieve data as requested by other software applications, be it those on the same computer or those running on another computer across a network (including the Internet).

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