

Participatory Approach Can Bring Change Case Study Lodhran

In causing change in a stagnant situation of community life, mobilization plays a vital role in pushing the people towards amelioration in the coming days. ASER is a source of getting direct access to local communities for their voluntary participation in becoming key agents of change in their localities.

ASER Team collaborated with the community in village Raja Pur, District Lodhran to connect families, schools, and the community for their mutual collaboration towards the achievement of better learning outcomes for their children and to prevent those factors which hinder regular schooling. After the Baithak in the village, ASER representatives kept coordinating with key informants of the community for breaking the ice on the issue of lack of communication between parents and the school administration about the education progress of children both at school and at home. Key informants names were: 1. Mistri Muhammad Iqbal 2. Syed Sohail Akhter 3. Chodhary Muhammad Basheer. Discussions were about how children are source of the bright nation, even our constitution has said that education is our children's basic right we need to give attention for improvement of this great cause and for this people need to be sensitized.

Multiple sittings with key informants of the community resulted in regular community gatherings at the village which gave birth to a sensitization phenomenon. Community was convinced over the fact that no doubt education is important and if the tradition to send children for child labor, which is the exploitation of their basic right, is changed there it would be better for their children. The parents understood that if today, they give their child the right of education in future the child will not blame them from depriving him/her of this right. The community felt that this was the first time that any organization came to their village and gave them insight on importance of education and opened their eyes about children's learning and improving quality of education.

The people organized so that they could reach out to everyone in the community. Bound by their language, cultural history, hard work, respect, pain, and hope, they created possibilities that supported the better learning of their children at schools, who until then had too often dropped out or shown scant interest in learning. Parents started to give coaching to children at home after school and started to send their children to schools regularly. They also started to meet with concerned teachers for knowing the progress of their children.

In a community, that accentuates participatory approach, these people look to their community for constant reformative sessions in order to facilitate a better future for their children's schooling. The power of community is a critical factor that shows how communities that pull together and offer caring ears, eyes, and hands, can ensure that their children thrive academically, socially, and personally. It offers a fresh approach and workable solutions to the problems that schools face today.

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