

## Testimony of a Young Female Volunteer

### Case Study Muzaffargarh

My Name is Anila and I live in Khanani Tehsil Ali Pur District Muzaffargarh. I passed my metric examination before 4 years. One day some people came to our village from ITA at called a community meeting of males, females, teachers and students. They introduced themselves as the ASER Team and also told about the findings of ASER and learning levels of our village. I was surprised to know that the student of 5th class can't read words of Urdu. ASER Team totally told us how many students can read sentence words and story. They also share the learning level in percentage of students of 5th class in 3 subjects Urdu English and Mathematics. When I came to know the condition of our village that the learning level of our village is low, I was greatly saddened.

I discussed this situation of the village with my friend Shazia who was also my class fellow. She also passed her metric examination with me. We wanted to study more but many problems stopped us from continuing our study. First our parents couldn't afford our study expense because we are from poor families. Second, to continue our study we had commute to the city on daily basis which was impossible because our parents didn't allow that and because the people of our village thought girls going to the village was something indecent. Thus our wish to study more was crushed.

People of our village don't take interest in the education of their children. They don't visit schools to find out about the progress of their children. Sometimes teachers called parents for parent teacher meetings or to tell them something about their children but they don't go and say that their work is more important. Because parents don't take interest in their children's education so they don't take care of their uniform, books, note books and attendance. Due to carelessness of parents mostly students also don't take interest in their studies and their absentees are more than attendance. I think these are the main reasons why my village poorly performed according to the ASER results.

After the Village Baithak we thanked ASER team for thinking about our village and for the betterment of education. After sharing of ASER result / learning level of Khanani, my friend and I decided to do something for our community. We felt that even though we two girls can't change the status quo but nevertheless we should contribute whatever we can for the betterment of quality of education. So we decided to teach the students of GGPS Hazoor Baksh (Khanani) in our village and go to each household and spread awareness about sending children to schools and taking interest in children's education.

Now we are teaching in GGPS Hazoor Baksh (Khanani). The enrollment of the school especially in the classes that we teach – Nursery and One – has increase. Round about 95 new students enrolled in this school after our awareness drive. People from community are also taking interest in the education of their children. They have started visiting school more often and ask about their children's studies. Many parents who were making their children work in fields or brick kilns have also enrolled their children. Teachers are also teaching with very care. If everybody does the same work inshAllah the learning level of our village will increase.

Reported by Tahira Siddiqua