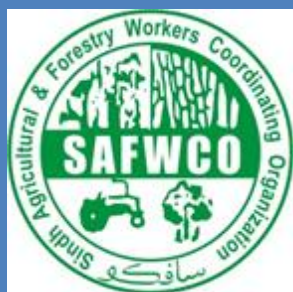


Effective Governance and Promotion of Peace

Currently, SAFWCO has added on along with governance work, improved peace and harmony situation through active engagement of ECG members at village/UC/district level. In regard with this addition, SAFWCO in collaboration with Oxfam developed a cadre of Master Trainers through conducting a Training of Trainers (ToT) on “Effective Governance and Promotion of Peace”



Learning Study

**Sindh Agriculture and Forestry Workers
Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO)**

Effective Governance and Promotion of Peace

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1. Project Background

Promoting active citizenship in improving governance has been important part of SAFWCO's strategic approach towards sustainable development. In this regard, SAFWCO with support of Oxfame GB had implemented "The Effective Citizenship Group (ECG) Project" in Districts Sanghar and Dadu. The main objective of the project was to bridge up the distance between government and citizens' especially very marginalized segment of the society i.e. women to bring improvement in governance at district level and ensure proper implementation of rights to education, right to information and pro-women legislation. SAFWCO successfully mobilized rural women and formed ECGs in two districts i.e. Dadu and Sanghar.

These women (ECG members) were capacitated in democratic norms, citizen's rights, and strengthened their relationships with government and other civil society organizations. The ECGs were facilitated to develop a close interface with Men-led counterpart civil society settings, besides networking with women Networks, and forging ECGs coordination with public sector, especially local government and academia.

Currently, SAFWCO has added on along with governance work, improved peace and harmony situation through active engagement of ECG members at village/UC/district level. In regard with this addition, SAFWCO in collaboration with Oxfam developed a cadre of Master Trainers including project team and 05 ECG members through conducting a Training of Trainers (ToT) on "Effective Governance and Promotion of Peace". These trained ECG members' transformed learned skills to other ECG members in District Dadu and District Sanghar.

2. Learning Study Objectives

- To analyze conflict situation in the target district through identification of key learning of ECG members
- To assess impact of training session for peace promotion through documenting success and failure stories

3. Study Location

Learning Study conducted in District Dadu and District Sanghar

4. Methodology

4.1 Meeting with Project Team

Before conducting learning workshops with ECG members, an introductory meeting conducted with Project Manager and District Coordinators from both the districts. During the meeting, project manager oriented regarding project background and process. District Coordinators i.e. Ms Rubab Jaffery and Mr. Hameed Mallah shared the districts and ECG member's profile. They defined the methodology of conducting

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training at grassroots level by ECG members and also shared the constraints and issues faced by ECG members. The criteria for selecting ECG members for ToT was also briefed and the detail of greed MoV of the sessions conducted by ECG members were shared. The introductory meeting with project team was aimed to understand the project ideology and implementation process. During the meeting roles and responsibilities of project team and consultant was discussed and time schedule for field activity was finalized. Respective District Coordinators provided session reports to the consultant in the meeting for review and consolidate the analysis on project process.

4.2 Review of Reports

ECG members were provided Training of Trainers and assigned to transform learned skills and knowledge at grassroots level. In this regard, 25 ECG members in district Dadu were made responsible to conduct 200 sessions (08 sessions by each ECG member) whereas 20 ECG members in district Sanghar were assigned to conduct 100 sessions (05 session by each ECG member) on peace and harmony. These ECG members told to produce reports and case stories of each session. In this reference, total 300 reports have been produced. During the study, these reports were reviewed carefully and helped in developing tools to conduct learning events. These reports mainly focused on community situation in regard with conflict, discussion, and participant's feedback, proceeding and key findings of the session. These reports revealed the challenges in promoting message of peace and harmony and process of motivation on conflict resolution.

4.3 Facilitation of Learning Events

Three learning workshops were conducted at Dadu, Shahdadpur, and Sanghar (participant's list is attached). An interactive discussion took place in these workshops and participants shared their experiences, hurdles, challenges, mitigation measures, achievements, and successful approach to conduct sessions on peace and harmony. Participants shared strategic learning and key conflict areas identified during their sessions with communities. Participants helped in preparing recommendations for making project more successful.

5. Priority Conflict Areas

Conflict priority areas were identified through conducting a research study in both the districts. The qualitative and quantitative research methods were applied accordingly. Union councils were selected randomly to carry out field activities which helped in gathering accurate data on defying conflict types in respective areas. Focus group discussions were conducted in 30 villages in selected union councils and semi-structured interviews were also conducted with government functionaries, CSO representatives and influential of the areas. Total 04 FGDs and 06 key informant's interviews were conducted whereas ECG members were oriented on developed questionnaire which was filled by them in filled and total 50 questionnaires were filled from respective field areas.

According to findings of the study, there are several visible and invisible conflicts types that directly affect socio-economic conditions of people. The study helped in identifying the following conflict types in respective districts;

5.1 Political based Conflicts

- Political influences and source to specific group/ tribe of mentioned districts;

5.2 Women / Gender based Conflicts

- Honor killing was commonly reported in district Dadu
- Money grabbing specially in case of loan and putting saving committee among women was reported in district Sanghar
- Conflicts over love marriages were commonly reported from both the districts

5.3 Bad Governance based Conflicts

- Unemployment, poor public services, land disputes due to poor revenue systems, water and sanitations facilities, closed schools and ghost teachers were reported commonly from both the districts
- Poverty that force affected communities to be involved in crimes specially kidnapping, murder, robbery, snatching

6. Conflict Situation

6.1 District Dadu

Dadu district is recently getting fame in term of Tribal clashes. It was the time when peace was observed in Dadu, but in the present time the most of communal conflicts are being occurred in District Dadu. Dadu district has multiple ethnicity area, where some of the casts have continuous disputes that are coming to be tribal conflicts. In resultant of such disputes, 100s of the causalities been reported including all age and gender (women and children even), many families have been migrated and been settled to the safer areas.

Mostly the conflicts have been reported in remote areas of Dadu district such as, Johi, Wahipandhi, Sita road, K.N Shah, Phulji station, Piyaro Goth as well as some of the area at river. In recent time, near the Sita road, a dispute been reported that happened due to land issue and in result, seven people died on spot with four injured. In addition, land grabbing is also another major reason of community disputes that has also engulfed the

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hundreds of lives in getting of land. Recently, in the attack of some armed men on a house situated in the nearby village of K.N Shah, five people including a teenager girl were killed. Furthermore, a newspaper reported the killing of six people of same family members due to an old enmity in Dadu.

Further, couple of months ago, a few months ago near the Pat sharif, a girl with her husband was killed on the name of honour killing (Karo Kari) who did court marriage on their own wish, the conflict been started within the families of both girl and her husband. Honor killing (Karo Kari) is one of the key reasons behind most of the conflicts that are continued in Dadu and other districts of Sindh.

These tribal clashes left psychological impacts on other people who remain limited in their homes. The people become unrest, worried, aggressive and also schools remain closed for many years just because of these disputes/ conflict that are happening among the communities, Beside the affecting law and order situation, economy of such area, education and other social activities, these conflict mainly affecting to daily wagers also whose families basically rely on labour and other daily wagging sources to afford their families. Agriculture at other side totally being affected as due to such disputes/ conflicts, most of the farmers not being able to cultivate their fields and in result, hundreds of thousands acres of land became barren or unfertile.

6.2 District Sanghar

The district Sanghar is strongly influenced by political based conflicts since 1970 when Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan Peoples' Party was attacked during public meeting for election campaign in Sanghar. District Sanghar is also political home to Spiritual leader Pir Pagara who is leading his political party named 'Pakistan Muslim League Functional' (PML-F).

Both the parties have conflicts over the time and recent local government elections (2015-2016) also created a bloodshed in Sanghar when both the parties came in clash in four workers from PPP were killed in Sanghar city. This was a consequence of martyr of 12 workers from PML-F in district Khairpur during local government election polling day. Majority of these PML-F workers belonged to district Sanghar. Common people are divided into these political parties and engaged in conflicts many of times.

It is also observed that some other ethnic conflicts are rapidly growing in the area like Setteler- HUR Jamat (followers of Pir Pagara) conflict, Baloch – HUR Jamat conflict etc. British government during their regime provided land to Punjabi settlers (majority of them were soldiers and government officials) and likewise Bugti and Marri Baloch were settled in the area by British Rules to counter the HUR Jamat movement against British rulers. Pakistan government continued the strategy and keep provided agriculture land to their Punjabi army officials and soldiers who settled their villages named 'CHAK'. Inter-tribal and intra-tribal conflicts are also rising in the area like Baloch and Punjabi tribes are in conflict and likewise Marri Baloch, Rind Baloch and Bugti Baloch are in clash with each other.

Sunni sect is dominating in the district and a significant majority of HUR Jamat belongs to Sunni sect but yet no such conflict is observed in the district.

7. Findings of Learning Workshops

7.1 Major Reasons of Conflicts

During learning workshops, different behaviors observed in both the districts and a variation observed in nature of conflicts in both the districts.

ECG members during the learning workshops shared the different reasons of conflicts they came across during their meetings with communities in different parts of the different. While comparison of the reasons, there is very little differentiation observed between both the districts. According to semi-structured study, it was revealed that 'land' is the major reason of conflict in both the districts. 52% conflicts in district Dadu and 47% conflicts in district Sanghar happens over the land. Intolerance and distanced relationship among relatives overturn the tiny problem into big conflicts within short time. 12% domestic conflicts in district Dadu and 23% in district Sanghar observed accordingly whereas 12% conflicts are based on robber and theft events in district Dadu whereas 19% observed in district Sanghar.

Sr.#	Reason of Conflicts	District Dadu	District Sanghar
1	Loot and Theft	12%	19%
2	Land	52%	47%
3	Honor Killing	14%	09%
4	Domestic issues included; o Conflicts over the issues of children o Early Marriage	17%	23%
5	Sectarian	05%	02%
6	TOTAL	100%	100%

The feedback of participants of learning workshop helped in understanding that miscommunication, disagreement, political and religious affiliations and one's perception about other are root causes of creating rifts or conflicts among or outside families / communities whereas external factors influencing decisions also creates conflicts and pave a ground for long term engagement in conflicts.

It was also revealed that due to conflict situation, next generation is suffering more and their health and education are at risks.

7.2 Immediate Impacts of Conflicts

According to the participants of learning workshops, loss of lives, tense situation and temporary migrations are immediate consequences of the conflicts due to which women and children suffer a lot. Education and health are fundamental rights of people which affected due to the mentioned above conflicts. It was worthy highlighted that 70% losses to lives have observed in district Dadu whereas 79% conflicts threaten to lives in district Sanghar. The rest of the percentage is mentioned in table below;

Sr.#	Immediate Impact	District Dadu	District Sanghar
1	Loss of lives	45%	50%
2	Prolonged conflicts	35%	40%
3	Temporary Migration	20%	10%
4	TOTAL	100%	100%

7.3 Peace Promotion Sessions at Grassroots Level

According to the participants of the learning workshops, they adopted different approaches to gather people around and deliver the message on peace. Mostly they mobilized their contacts in respective villages and neighboring areas to gather people i.e. men and women where they arrange refreshment for participants.

Trainers adopted different tools to influence people's concentration and conducted theatre performances, role plays, singing songs, playing games and sharing personal experiences with participants. According to them initially participants were not taking interest in verbalized sessions since they converted their discussion through role plays and theater performances. Participants took interest in theatre performances and said these look like their own problems as they face these in their daily life. These theatre performances convinced them to share their personal problems. According to trainers, sometimes participants shared their very much personal feelings and issues.

During these sessions, participants invited participants from different walks of life i.e. different tribes, different families, different religions, and having different political ideologies and it was observed that people were taking interest with same zest in sharing their problems and showed interest in resolving their rifts. Trainers shared that this kind of interventions can make a big difference in the lives of people who are surviving under threats and ruining their future.

7.4 Peace Promotion as an Innovation

Participants of the learning workshops in both the districts highlighted the intervention as an innovative approach to overcome conflicts and promote peace and harmony in the conflicted zones.

According to participants, several organizations are engaged in activities related to service delivery and raising awareness on human rights but until unless sustainable peace is not promoted and neighboring families / communities do not enjoy a peaceful life, provided services and extended awareness cannot help in uplifting socio-economic livelihood in target districts.

Participants also shared that discussing on the subject of religious is made holy and people avoid discussing it in open but since sessions are conducted with them, it found that people are willing to discuss on the matter if relevant platform is provided to them.

7.5 Peace Promotion Sessions; Issues and Challenges

ECG members shared some challenges they faced in conducting sessions on peace and harmony. Trainers from District Sanghar shared that they did not face any hurdle but Ms. Reshma Chang in Shahdadpur shared that people from one of the scheduled castes 'Kohli' do not like taking food with Muslims so whenever she met them, they avoided to sit with her or with other Muslim communities. Ms. Ishrat Jehan from Sanghar also shared that she belongs to Pathan community and people though gather around on her invitation but avoid sharing their problems as these communities are strict in their traditions and breaking traditions will take time, she added. Other ECG members from district Sanghar did not share any challenge they face

ECG members in District Dadu faced religion factor like Ms. Mehtab Sindhu shared that while her discussion with women group, a religion leader "Molvie" came inside and started disturbing her dialogues and repeatedly calling her discussion Un-Islamic and against shariah. Somewhere in District Dadu and Sanghar people asked for relief and

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said that they don't have time to waste on these kinds of lectures. Male dominance was another factor that created a hurdle in delivering the lectures as males gathered around in District Dadu and said to the trainer to share their message with them and they will communicate to females but this type of mindset convinced after a little effort but religion element was difficult to tackle up but legal based argument and references from holy book Quran compelled them to move away from the meeting venue.

During the session, it was shared that women were easily gathered and received messages but men, due to their ego were reluctant to attend the meeting on invitation of female ECG members.

ECG members shared that SAFWCO's existence in the village and their developed reputation within communities helped them a lot in gathering and convincing people on the message. Social system and cultural adaptation also helped trainers in delivering the message on peace and harmony.

7.6 Peace Promotion Sessions; Breakthrough

The major breakthrough, according to ECG members was trust building among women and their acceptance and realization of the conflicts. Trainers told that while discussing participants themselves realized that the roots of conflict are not stronger but miscommunication and misunderstanding among them linger on the disputes and they also shared that neighbors and community leaders do not play their role of arbitration so far disputes never come to an end. Trainers shared that somewhere they played a role of arbitration so they succeeded in building trust among women.

ECG members also shared that this kind of dialogues (peace and harmony) is also helpful in breaking taboos and extended opportunity to people to discuss openly on sacred subjects. ECG members shared that advocacy on rights and service delivery is a common agenda of organizations working in the area but enhanced activism for peace promotion is a relatively new intervention in the area which ultimately helps in building a good image and reputation of ECG members and SAFWCO too.

8. Key Learning and Recommendations

During learning workshops, types of conflicts and reasons helped to understand that unemployment, illiteracy, intolerance, ego, lack of political education, and feudal behavior are the roots of any conflict. Although reasons of the conflicts are not much critical but due lack of social awareness, these turned into clash and continue for longer time. There is dire need of a shift in mindset and behaviors from the way people currently thinks and interact to value diversity and connect with each other based on common humanity. In context of such a situation, government and nongovernment sector should prioritize the following six measures to manage conflict and promote peace in target districts.

8.1 Establishing an Institutional Mechanism at Community Level

To strengthen the democratic system enhancing a political and civic culture which is supportive of democratic institutions and processes to ensure increased citizen participation in policy and decision-making processes, service delivery, resource allocation, the oversight of public institutions and in broader initiatives aimed at creating more peaceful, democratic, and pluralistic societies through creating an enabling environment for community based organizations and building their capacities. This kind of intervention will enhance active citizen participation, civic virtues, such as tolerance and gender equality and other civic skills, attitudes, and behaviors.

8.2 Strengthen law enforcement

To strengthen law enforcement in both the districts, particularly by building the capacity of the police through improved resources and training that includes how to manage communal sensitivities and stem sectarianism. An independent and well-trained police force is a key to tackling multifaceted challenges, particularly with regard to stemming tribal warfare, criminality, and extremism. Police with access to local communities are well placed to monitor the emergence of violent groups and check their activities, such as the distribution of hate-inciting publications and graffiti. The regular rotation of high-ranking police officers could also help depoliticize the force and allow it to stop cycles of tribal violence through third-party interventions.

8.3 Establish Legal Aid Assistance System

Establishing legal clinics to provide legal assistance and knowledge to communities and introduce other rapid legal mechanisms for dispute resolution. The lack of access to speedy justice is one of the main reasons that the feudal system has endured and that its gradual erosion is empowering clerics who increasingly play the role of arbiters. By reducing the backlog of cases in Sindh's establishing responsive legal mechanisms at a hyper local level, the judiciary can provide an alternative forum for dispute resolution that will both check the powers of waderas and imams and promote the growth of democratic institutions in the province.

8.4 Develop and Implement Education Policies and Plan

To address the problem of nonfunctional ghost schools / teachers and ensure government-funded schooling is accessible in target districts. Rural population in target districts is increasingly likely to seek educational opportunities for social advancement.

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At present that demand is not being properly met as most of the schools are closed due to ghost teachers. In such a condition, the growing pull of seminaries is likely to increase sectarianism in Sindh and drive cycles of violence unless government-funded schools with a secular and inclusive curriculum are available as viable options.

8.5 Improve Government Accountability and Transparency

Ensure accountability and transparency by supporting and enhancing capacity of Sindh's privately owned print and electronic media through trainings for journalists and grants for investigative projects. Sindh's vernacular media is among the most vibrant in the country, including well over a dozen established and regular print publications and several Sindhi language news and current affairs channels. Sindhi media increasingly holds district and provincial-level politicians accountable, particularly with regard to poor service delivery, and regularly highlights violence against religious minorities. At a time of transition, the media is a key to mapping changes in Sindh's political and religious cultures and can support the functioning of the police and judiciary by highlighting injustices.

8.6 Develop a Livelihood Program

To develop a livelihood program focused on target districts. Rapid urbanization is likely to lead to increased joblessness in target districts, as elsewhere in Sindh province, in the coming years. Unemployed youth (male and female both) are at risk of being recruited by violent extremist groups or joining criminal gangs. Moreover, urbanization itself is likely to drive conflict as new arrivals in the province's towns and smaller cities compete for scarce resources, such as housing and water supply. Increased employment / small scale entrepreneurship opportunities will not only moderate the pace of urbanization but also check conflict.

9. Case Stories

9.1 Sectorial based Differences

Ms. Shahida Vighio met a family during session on Peace and Harmony. According to Ms. Shahida Vighio, Ms. Kiran and Mr. Irfan were in love with each other but their families were not agreed on their marriage due to sectorial differences. Kiran was belonging to the Shia sect whereas Irfan was Sunni so Irfans' parents refused to accept this marriage.

After hearing the matter, Shahida Vighio met Irfan's family separately and discussed the matter. She promoted humanism and said them that these differences don't mean a lot. After holding few meetings and conducted counseling with Irfan's parents, Shahida succeeded in convincing them on the marriage. Finally Irfan got permission and happily wedded with Kiran. Now both are settled in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Irfan is working there as Doctor.

9.2 Class based Difference

Ms. Yasrab Shah and Mr. Khalid Qambrani were in love each other but Ms. Yasrab Shah was belonging to a spiritual family whereas Khalid Qambrani was an oppressed so Yasrab couldn't dare to share her love with her parents. Both decided and got married in court. This kind of court marriage created several problems for Khalid as Yasrabs' parents logged FIR against Khalid and blamed him for Yasrabs' abduction. They also logged many other cases against Khalid Qambrani but Yasrab stated in his favor in court so court released Khalid but matter remained unresolved and yasrab's parents were not agreed to accept this marriage.

Ms. Kiran Vighio ECG member met with Yasrab's mother and tried to convince her and share the harms of class differences. Kiran tried to realize them that their acts are affecting life of their daughter and this kind of abhorrence may affect next generations. Counseling for hours successfully provoked Yasrab's mother who then motivated her family and finally accepted this marriage

9.3 Religion based Difference

Ms. Sonia ECG member from Shahdadpur shared her case story that a mosque and a temple were located in front of each other in UC-I city Shahdadpur. At the time of *Adhan*, Hindu temple priest started religious hymn (*Bhujan*) loudly which cause disturbance in *Adhan* and sometime, due to this, Friday sermon was also interrupted. The ECG members gathered females from both religions at a place and discussed the matter and shared that this practice can create a war situation among both religions and all socio-economic activities can be affected and both have to be suffered a lot. Females from either religion realized the severity of the matter and smelled a social breakup between the both. They made commitment to discuss the matter with their male members and since this meeting, such practice is stopped and counseling with females worked well.

9.4 Sectorial based Difference

Ms. Sobina Nayyar ECG member from District Sanghar shared that Ali Hyder, a student of class VI in Mumtaz Educational Academy (private School) belonged to Shia sect and

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his class fellows were observed avoiding to make any kind of relation with him. He was very much poor and did not afford to buy even his school uniform. He continuously faced hatred of his class fellows. Finally he decided to leave school. The matter came in the knowledge of Sobina Nayyar who then conducted a counseling session with students. She shared harms of this sectorial abhorrence and said children are angels and angels don't follow any religion sect. Her discourse and counseling realized the students and they showed their commitment to not repeat same hatred behavior with Ali Hyder again. Not only this but all students collected funds and gifted a school uniform to Ali Hyder to bond in a new relation with him.

9.5 Child Marriages; a major source of uproar

Ms. Mahnoor; a young ECG member started promoting peace from her home and started counseling her family to say NO to child marriages. She said child marriages are one of the major sources of uproar in families as young brides cannot manage multi tasks in families like upbringing of babies, kitchen and homecare so problems started and increase rifts in families. On her counseling, one of her uncle refused proposal of her young daughter and showed willingness to give her all opportunities of higher education.

Moreover, Mahnoor also shared that she has to listen odd comments from neighbors and family members as she is very young so she tried to be with her mother to make her voice stronger.