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INDUS-EARTH-TRUST



Indus Earth Trust

Ensure 100 women - 100 families have a better future

Imagine a life where poverty is so bleak that families live day to day without any dreams for the future. The children suffer from malnutrition as there is hardly adequate food on the table. The male members of the household earn a limited income which does not compete with inflation. The housing is not fit for human beings and fails to provide security against extreme events.

**Each human being has rights — the rights to health, education, shelter and security.
Financial security is a step towards attaining rights.**



'before' – non-permanent house



'after' – inside new house

Women in the household can provide the support to the household income if they have the means and training to establish a new livelihood. Income can then be channeled into the household to provide regular meals, uniforms for children to go to school and building permanent housing. At a social level the women attain respect in the community. Overall many of these women attain the confidence to start to dream again.

Livelihood development Process

1. Identify participants according to Indus Earth Trust's poverty scorecard
2. Establish an arrangement with participant
3. Train Participants in enterprise development
4. Distribute monthly ration for families until the business is secure
5. Assist in helping participants attaining livelihood assets
6. Monitor participant's improvement in standard of living with respect to Indus Earth Trust's poverty scorecard



Dharmi's Story

Dharmi is an active and vocal woman belonging to the minority community of Hindus, living in a small and quaint village in UC Gharo. She is the proud recipient of 3 goats.

Her community has always kept livestock, but the livestock has never been their own. In poor communities in Sind, livestock ownership and rearing for livelihood is on the basis of half-and-half partnership, between the provider of the livestock and the keeper of the livestock. This has meant that even though the keeper is looking after the livestock and feeding it, the profit from selling of the milk is shared on fifty-fifty basis. This also means that the provider also has an equal share in the off-spring of the livestock. This severely restricts the income that the poor can derive from the livestock and cuts their chances of increasing the herd in half as well.



Dharmi, talking to IET trustee



Dharmi, and her family



Dharmi's goats

After receiving the 3 goats Dharmi's children can have milk regularly. She is also diverting the money spent in buying milk towards educating 4 out of her 5 boys. When asked why she doesn't sell milk, to the villagers she simply replies, that in such communities, it is a relationship of reciprocity, they villagers take the milk from her goats when they need it, and she takes something from them when she needs it. However she is waiting for her livestock to reproduce and then selling her goats for a profit.



Haseena Bano's Story

Haseena lived a life of utter poverty, with children and family not having enough to eat, even going without food on some days. Her husband was a daily wage earner, but is now sick and unable to work. Haseena and her daughter had to take on the responsibility of earning and running the house by crocheting skullcaps and providing them to a retailer for resale. However they found it difficult to make ends meet. Her 2 elder daughters went to school till class 5 as education in government schools primary education is free. However as education class 6 onwards is paid for, the girls were unable to continue education. When IET provided her with the opportunity of Livelihood support, Haseena chose the option of stocking shoes to resell. This business allowed her to operate from her house. This was important for her specially, in view of her husband's illness. She chose her own styles of shoes and was able to sell off the first stock successfully. She then stocked up on more shoes and expanded the goods for sale to include clothes for adults and children.



Haseena Bano with her girls



A view of the Shoe Shop



Girls , dreaming of completing their education

She has now enrolled her 5 younger children in a school as well. The older girls help the mother in making crocheted skull caps and attending to the buyers who visit the shoe shop located within their house.

Haseena dreams of a better life, where she can expand her business to include other items, having enough to eat, getting a good education for the younger children and marrying the elder daughters in future. Her girls however dream of rejoining school and completing their education.

