

Preservation of Nature by SMC Females



OSDI intervened in the vulnerable community of Yaqoob Jokhio, located in the union council of Chaubandi in district Thatta (Sindh) in the year 2019. The village comprises of 4 muhallas/areas having 167 households. Upon OSDI's intervention in this community, the villagers requested nothing more than having an educational facility opened in their community to educate their minors.

The community had more than 400 children, who had no choice but to be illiterate. Out of all these children barely 3 minors went to school. The nearest educational facility was at a distance of 4 – 5 kms. Due to the village stray dogs, hot climatic temperature and long travelling distance the parents refrained from sending their children to school. Another area of concern for the parents was kidnapping or injury of the children as there is no health-care facility nearby.

A Temporary Learning Centre (TLC) was soon constructed by OSDI in this vicinity having 2 classrooms. Later on, a third classroom was added to this educational facility to accommodate the raising number of students. Due to OSDI's active social mobilization campaigns and one to one discussions with parents, the enrollment of students raised to 248. The parents were counselled to educate their daughters for a better tomorrow.

Further, adding on to the beatification of the school in October 2020, OSDI planted more than 180 plants under the Natural Resource Management Project (NRM). The villagers voluntarily prepared land with utilization of clay. Female members of the School Management Committee (SMC) willingly rendered their services to plant trees. A water management system was set up by OSDI in this school with 30% of the contribution in the expenses by the SMC members.

After a tenure of 16 – 18 months the school now has plants up to 8 – 13 feet high. These plants have not only contributed in lowering the climatic temperatures but have also become a source of shade. They also help in protecting the classrooms from heavy rains, heat of the sun or dry winds.

The common plants available are Conocarpus, Devi, and Zuklas in the internal side of walls surrounding the classrooms.