

CONCEPT PAPER

Women And Family Assistance (Wafa) Project

(ونفا Wafa پراجيڪٽ)

(Progress of Women Is Progress of All)

Background

Human development is about people. It is about health and education, poverty reduction and elimination; it is about employment for all and about sharing the benefits of growth equality and about protecting and developing the environment for the society. Women's role in human society's development is indeed a great factor. Women are the managers, organizers, producers, providers, food guarantors and educators of the family and since family life revolves around women, their human dignity and development of their full potential forms the core of human development. (Driven from "First International Conference on The Role of Woman and Family in Human Development Tehran, Iran May, 1995)

Stability of the family as a basic and smallest social institution should be taken into consideration as a very tangible index of the human development which includes health, education and income. Thus the ultimate objective of human development is the attainment of highest quality of human being and human life. While reviewing the statistics of different studies on "human development", an awful portrait of human development challenges all the developmental agencies and their agendas and also to all the human rights champions as each year half million women die as a result of pregnancy-related causes, and many other suffer life long-long health complications. Still million others are living with low status and limited autonomy, despite of the fact that they (women) are the key players of family system and human development which comprise more than half of the world population.

Women in Pakistan also suffer form discrimination in all spheres of life and at all level. The monetary discrimination they endure reinforces other discriminations and perpetuates their low status. Although there are differences but the overall fact is that Pakistani women work from dawn to dusk yet their work is hardly recognized in the system of national accounts. The inequality of women's status and rights at all levels of society and discrimination against them in several forms remains a matter of serious concern as "The dignity and status of women and men as equal citizens of Pakistan is a moral imperative, constitutional obligation and a guiding principle of an egalitarian and progressive society".

Continuing traditional practices based on superstitions in the name of religions and cultural taboos seriously hamper role of women in human development. All the development activities will be wastage of time and resource if women's participation in strategic decision-making process is limited all levels from family to global, and in cultural, political, economic and social fields. Women's existing productive, reproductive and social roles in the Northern Areas (NAs) of Pakistan is also undervalued and unrecognized. Although women constitute approximately 48 % of the region yet their needs and aspirations often remained unrecognized.

A paradise on earth for its pure scenic beauty, cultural diversity, and natural resources, the Northern Areas of Pakistan can be a miserable place for women, where their majority plays traditional roles, comprising domestic work, agricultural activities and caring for infants. Their daily workload is heavier than that of men, but their work is invisible, poorly counted and unacknowledged. They are expected to follow the social, religious and cultural traditions rigorously. Gender discrimination, violence against women (VAW), sexual exploitation and social humiliation prevail in all shapes and forms in the Northern Areas of Pakistan since various studies, surveys and other reliable data supports this notion, for example, physical VAW in the form of honour killings, mysterious suicide cases of women, beating, sexual VAW like early, mismatched and imposed marriages, polygamy, and psychological VAW such as insulting, ignoring, restricting women to the home, keeping women under stress, and negative attitudes and behaviors of males.

It is view of this appalling level of living of women in the region that Association of Global Humanists and Ethics (AGHE) initiate a three months pilot project named as: Women and Family Assistance (Wafa) Project through among other things. District Ghizer is selected as the focused region for this project due to the increasing numbers of women suicide cases, which were becoming a challenge for the human rights organizations, the families and the communities. The project's direct beneficiaries will be the 20 master trainers who will be selected from out of the two Tehsils (Poniyal & Yasin) of the District. However, the indirect beneficiary will be the entire community and the families of women as the project is bound to have multiplier effect. The project will be helpful to visualize problems and consequences of violence against women, discrimination of girls and women in family, school and social life of the region through building capacity of the social activists (females & males) on preventing violence and discrimination against women and girls as well as by publishing and disseminating educational pamphlets.

Objectives of the Project

Following objectives will be taken into consideration while carrying out different project's activities:

- ♥ To impart knowledge to understand women's role in family and about the women's rights.
- ♥ To aware families and communities about changing role of women in contemporary context.
- ♥ To create space for women to demonstrate to their abilities for the benefits of their families.

Strategies/Activities

- ♥ Advocacy
- ♥ Capacity Building (Training of the Trainers ToT)
- ♥ Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Activities in Relation To the Objectives

1. To impart knowledge to understand women's role in family and about the women's rights
2. To aware families and communities about changing role of women in contemporary context.

- ♣ Advocacy visits to key leaders in the District Ghizer including (politicians, govt. officials etc)
- ♣ Stakeholders' sensitisation workshop
- ♣ Develop, print and distribute IEC materials on eradicating child labour

3. To create space for women to demonstrate to their abilities for the benefits of their families.

- ♣ Conducting capacity building workshop for twenty identified master trainers of the project area by adopting peer education approach.

Indicators for Success

- Number of families and community people sensitised on preventing violence and discrimination against women and girls
- Number of community people trained as peer educators and providing counselling services.
- Availability of training materials for the Women's rights education programme

Expected Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected from the project.

- Changing attitudes and practices towards women's rights by the parents, other family and community members, and local government officials.
- Twenty master trainers will be trained as peer educators and providing counselling the women and families on women related issues.
- Increase in the number of community people advocating on prevention of violence and discrimination against women and girls
- 10,000 IEC materials will be developed in the national language and will be distributed among the families and at mass level.

Time Frame

*W 1	W 2	W 3	W 4	W 5	W 6	W 7	W 8	W 9	W 10	W 11	W 12
Situation Analyses	S.Hs' Wksp	Dev. IEC and Training Material	Dev. IEC and Training Material	**** Imp. of ToT	***** Dis. of IEC	Dis. of IEC	Dis. Of IEC	Dis. Of IEC	# F	## F S	@ R
Dialogue with **S.Hs	**Dev Action Plan	XXXX	XXX		***** Adv. Visits	Adv.	Adv.	Adv.			

KEYS *Week, **Stakeholders, *** developing, ****implementation, *****Distribution, *****Advocacy Visits, # Follow-up of the ToT, ## follow-up Seminar of ToT & stakeholders @ Report writing and dissemination