

Case Study: Water Borne Diseases in Village Sevo Chandio

The Village Sevo Chandio is one of the oldest villages of Union Council Dhani Bux Bughio, Taluka K.N Shah District Dadu. The village is divided into three parts, Sevo Chandio, Drabhi and Nazar Mohammed Chandio. The whole community belongs to Chandio tribe. It is located at a distance of two kilometers from the east of Tehsil headquarter K.N Shah. The total population of the village is about 1800 that are living in 110 houses built by clay. There is road, electricity and a primary school for boys.

The main source of income of the people is agriculture and livestock. Due to shortage of water the village people are unable to cultivate rice crop on their lands and instead have cultivate wheat crop since last decade. This has resulted in poverty and the villagers have very low opportunity to survive.

Two years back, the main source of water for the people of the village was contaminated water of wells. The villagers are using polluted water from the wells for drinking, cooking, bathing and washing. This has resulted in water borne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, skin diseases and has caused deaths among women and children.

About 70 to 80 percent of the population is suffering from diseases such as hepatitis, diarrhea, cholera, typhoid and kidney stones. Rabia, daughter of Abdul Sattar during her interview in the program DEEO of KTN TV have said that she is suffering from kidney stones. She had been operated twice at Chandka Medical College, Larkana but she still facing the same problem and her hair is dropping continuously.

Another 15 years old villager, Shakeel Chandio, had been suffering from blood cancer and died last year. He was a student of 10th grade in Government Boys High School K.N.Shah..

Mr. Abdul Ghani Chandio, 42 years old resident of village Sevo Chandio says that “access to clean and pure water is one of the rights of every citizen and the government should provide clean water for free especially in village areas.”

The K.N Shah Taluka is a remote and backward area of the district Dadu. It is divided into two parts. About 65 percent of the area is hilly and arid while the remaining is irrigated under water logging and salinity. The ground water available in the area is contaminated. After a recent survey which was conducted by SAFCOW, it was found that a high level of salt and arsenic is present in ground water.

Taluka K.N Shah is one of the most undeserved and conservative Taluka in Sindh province. In the past there was little development due to unstable law and order situation. However, as stability increased, the development works in other areas of Sindh have also increased. This is due to establishment of local governments in all Sindh province.

After the local newspapers highlighted the problems of water borne diseases of village Sevo Chandio, the Taluka Nazim took notice of the problems, visited the area and held discussions with the villagers. To resolve the problem, a Rural Water Supply Scheme for Sevo Chandio was launched from SDSSP funds under ASP 2004-05 and an amount of Rs 25, 32, 450/= was allocated.

Mr. Abdul Ghani Chandio added that “giving access to portable water to poor households of village Sevo Chandio is a result of tremendous efforts of the Taluka level local government under the conditions of the Sindh Local Government Ordinance (SLGO) of 2001, which has helped in decreasing diseases and deaths in the village.”

As per the Scheme, one pump house and 7 water tanks were constructed. The Scheme has been completed but electricity is still not available. Therefore, a diesel pump has been installed for temporary use until electricity is available in the village.