

Case Study:

“Water Tank, of Village Choudry Abdul Aziz Arain UC Sher Khan Chandio TMA Kunri, District Umerkot”

Background of District Umerkot:

The District Umerkot includes 4 Talukas Municipal Administration and 27 Union Councils. The Taluka Municipal Administrations are Umerkot, Kunri, Pithoro and Samaro

Umerkot is one of the oldest historical cities of Sindh. It enjoys rich cultural values with highly popular folk story of Umer & Marvi. It is also the birthplace of Akbar the great Mughal emperor. The District headquarters displays itself with a historical magnificent fort of Umer.

About 82 percent population is living below poverty line. According to the census of 1998, 30 percent population is living in urban while 70 percent population is living in rural areas.

Taluka Municipal Administration Kunri:

The TMA Kunri is situated in the west of the District at a distance of 35 km from the Umerkot. The current population of the Taluka Kunri is about 198000 and while the Kunri Town is has 35000. The Taluka includes 7 Union Councils. Most of the people are living in rural therefore their main source of income is agriculture. The main crops of the area are wheat, cotton, chilli and sugarcane. In addition there are many orchards and cattle farms in Kunri. It is one of the biggest chilli market in Asia. The quality of ground water is brackish; therefore, most of the people use canal water for drinking purposes. People used to store water in Katcha Ponds for daily consumption, but it was very contaminated and unhygienic for health. The same water was also used for washing and bathing purposes as well. .

“Water Tank of Village Choudry Abdul Aziz Arain”

The Village Choudry Abdul Aziz Arain is located at Union Council Sher Khan Chandio , TMA Kunri District Umerkot . It is about 45 km away from the Kunri town. The total population of the village is 300. There is a primary school for boys and girls. Mostly of the villagers depend on agriculture for their livelihood..

The main problem of this village was the non-availability of pure and hygienic drinking water, which was also discussed by the villagers in the meeting. They said that:” **We are using water from Katcha Pond for drinking purpose, but the water is very unhygienic and contaminated due to which several villagers have suffered from stomach diseases.** ”.

The villagers added that:” **We had requested the Local Government Department to resolve the problem and arrange to provide safe drinking water for the villagers as they are very poor and could not afford the expenses of medicines.**”

The TMA Kunri (IS staff) visited the village and discussed the problems faced by the villagers. The villagers said that the facility for pure and hygienic drinking water should be provided on priority basis. They suggested that a solid water pond may be constructed which will contain hygienic water for drinking purposes for all villagers. It will strictly be supervised so that animals do not consume the same water from the pond. This will help reduce water-borne diseases amongst the villagers.”

Keeping in view the importance of the scheme, it was included in the Annual Sector Plan of SDSSP for the year 2005-6. After the scheme was approved, it was implemented with the

collaboration of the villagers at Choudry Abdul Aziz Arain Village and a solid water tank with a support of Rs 300000 from SDSSP funds was constructed.

After the construction of the water tank, it was handed over to the villagers for further maintenance. Now villagers are using the water from the water tank for drinking and other purposes as well. As a result, it is now observed that the ratio of diseases have reduced amongst the villagers.

Presently, 250 women and 175 men are the main beneficiaries of the scheme. The surrounding population is also using the water for drinking purposes from this scheme as well.

The villagers also said that: "The scheme has provided awareness about the benefits of community work. We are now confident that after the successful implementation of the scheme, we can identify more such problems of the area and work together to resolve them."