

Anjuman Samaji Behbood - (ASB)

Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies DSW(pb)772

About us

Anjuman Samaji Behbood (ASB) (Mean Social Welfare Organization) was founded in 1964 as a non-profit Non-Government Organization (NGO) and registered in 1975 under Directorate Social Welfare Govt. of Punjab. Started its activities with a profile of welfare. ASBs methodology and philosophy was changed, after a new experience of community development after meetings with, Mr. Arif Hasan, Dr. Akhtar Hamid Khan, of Orangi Pilot Project Karachi and restart taking initiatives in 1994 to replicate OPP role model of Credit, Health, Water Supply, Sanitation, Advocacy and Social Forestry in Faisalabad under the Title Integrated Slums Development Programme (ISDP). From Hasanpura, a low-lying area of the City, by facilitating laying of Water Supply and Sanitation system. These projects were completed with technical and consultative collaboration of OPP. utilizing community own resources and achieve the desired results in innovative way of working, Owing to the successful accomplishment of this venture, it has been expanded in other Seventy-Two Communities of Faisalabad, neighboring city of Jaranwala and Rohtas Fort village of District Jehlam. Now request received from Chiniot and Sahiwal TMAS.

1. Description of the Problem and Action as Implemented With a population of 2.5 million, Faisalabad is the second biggest city of Punjab province in Pakistan established between 1895 and 1905 Originally planned in area of 45 hectares, the numerous slums and squatter settlements around the city share common problems arising from lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation services. In Hasanpura, a typical low income housing area of 1000 households, there was no municipal provision for water supply and sanitation when ASB commenced work in 1994. The NGOs research showed that the residents of Hasanpura paid heavily for the purchase of water and solid waste collection. In 1995, the cash spending of Hasanpura equaled US Dollars 100 for the purchase of water and solid waste collection on a daily basis, when average income per household was 2 dollars. The hidden costs to the residents arising from the problem were even bigger in scale. Poor drinking water led to chronic gastric and skin diseases, high electricity costs accrued from the pumping of underground water at the household level, and open drains seeped into foundations of residences as well as polluting the ground water table. Estimates show that residents of Hasanpura were paying Rs. 9.292 million = \$ 0.160 million annually for medicines, house repairs, and procurement of basic services arising out of this one problem. ASB has taken action to redress the lack of water and sanitation services so that after 3 years, all residents of Hasanpura have piped water and sewerage lines. Through self-help, the residents have financed and constructed their own primary and secondary sanitation and water works as well as maintaining the infrastructure in collaboration with the municipality. ASB has replicated this approach in 72 such settlements in Faisalabad, and is currently facilitating this process at the city- wide level in the neighboring city of Jaranwala and Rohtas Fort Village District Jehlam.

2. Impact of Implemented Action As a result of the work of ASB, 548 lanes where there are 7,108 houses now have their own water and sanitation supply. Some 151,038 running feet of pipes have been laid, financed through 23.49 million rupees = \$ 0.499 million earned by the residents of low-income areas. In the absence of this self-help work, residents would have paid

950 million Rs = \$ 16.96 million in ten years towards medicines, water and solid waste collection services, while waiting for government works to be undertaken. This amounts to the money saved by communities from the work of ASB. Additional to significant savings for the poor, the sanitation work has improved living standards through benefits to health, lowering of medical costs, and environmental hazards resulting from contamination of the water table through 60% waste water seepage from unlined drains. A neat network of covered sanitation pipes in these lanes has improved play spaces for children and pedestrian access for visits of family and friends.

3. Stakeholder Participation ASBs fundamental work has been in facilitating correct alignment of stakeholder responsibilities and relationships. The NGO has progressed beyond participation into orchestrating and mediating previously estranged stakeholders to collaborate while staying within their specific mandates. ASB and its own support group: The source of ASBs approach is the work of the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi. ASB is considered the most successful replication of the OPP Component Sharing model, however, it has proven that a mixture of adoptive as well as adaptive strategies are the ingredients of a replication effort. ASB continues its relationship with OPP as its master teacher and critic. ASB has only one core donor that grants finances for its small overheads, salaries, transport and training costs. This donor is Water Aid UK, and is flexible and non-demanding. ASB has refrained from assistance through other donors in order to avoid donor driven agendas as well as excessive funds. Now, at a more mature stage in its life cycle, while firmly setting an agenda for expansion of its development work. ASB and the local community: The client communities of ASB have been encouraged to shed the false expectation that government can provide for all basic services, instead they have constructed their own tertiary and secondary sanitation works and linked them to municipal primary works. In its own relations with local communities, ASB clearly establishes that it is a teacher and not a contractor in undertaking sanitation works. It banks with the poor and never allocates grants, and researches facts to inform the community about their own cumulative conditions. It imparts health and hygiene awareness, promoting prevention rather than cure, and trains a local cadre of para- engineers, surveyors, and maintenance workers within the community. ASB and the government: Saddled with a complex colonial bureaucracy, the government has been assisted by ASB in fulfilling its own mandate. ASB has developed trust by understanding departmental processes and identifying crucial gaps that hinder service delivery. Maps of municipal pipelines are fragmented or missing, and government is unable to improve on its own works. ASB has demonstrated that it is a ground-truthing resource center that can provide knowledge, training and equipment that government staff requires but budgets do not allow. The interplay between stakeholders ASBs work has broken barriers between poor households at the lane level to enable discussion on common issues and solve them on a self- help basis. ASB serves to bridge the communication gap between government and communities, who had become adversarial because they mutually regarded each other as defaulters in their duties. ASB has informed poorly educated communities about good practices to maximize the benefits of government infrastructure. This has reduced the blame previously heaped upon government for substandard works, when much of the fault actually lay with poor user habits. The NGO has inculcated low income residents payment of municipal bills which have led to increased government revenue, in exchange the municipality has implemented a 50% tariff discount in localities where ASB is working. ASB is the trusted and common friend between the community and the government, and plays a mediation role that has engendered mutual understanding not previously in evidence.

4. Sustainability With replication efforts successful in Faisalabad, ASB has further commitments here to assist in the city- wide mapping of sanitation works for improved government priority setting. Jaranwalas 150,000 population, only 10% of whom have water and sanitation, will have a GIS based master plan prepared with municipal and ASB collaboration. While primary infrastructure will be constructed by the municipality, all tertiary works will be the residents responsibility, This component sharing is the approach that ASB envisions will be proven to national government so that it becomes policy for urban planning. Its economic efficacy is apparent as communities save while constructing their own water and sanitation lines and government is relegated to constructing public works that it can afford.

5. Commitment As its approach goes to scale through municipalities, ASB prepares for legal and policy hurdles during the course of citywide implementation. Equipped with practical research experience, ASB will assist municipalities to analyze and reconcile these discrepancies in official rules of business. It also prepares for further adaptive models to emerge by offering options in problem solving. Impoverished municipalities should be able to obtain government loans for construction and repay the exchequer through revenue from tariffs. As more community facilitators emerge to replace ASB, it will increasingly become a training institution focusing on adaptive replication and impacting policy.

6. Originality and Innovative Ideas ASBs work is an innovation that has branched out of 18 years of OPPs action research to support low- income communities to access water and sanitation services on a self- help basis. The OPP model came under criticism in the mid 1988s because it was supposed to have unique assets that made replication difficult: the leadership and charisma of its Director Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan, the core funding provided by a philanthropic endowment, and the naturally sloping topography of coastal Karachi. ASBs own original innovations have evolved in three aspects that do not replicate but adapt the OPP model. In its motivation methodology, it strives to become a mirror of facts and trends to community members including women, children, leaders and politicians, based on the local research and analysis it conducts. This is a departure from the demonstration effect of a lane all ready with piped water and sewerage lines for neighbors to come and see. Secondly, ASB facilitates the construction of secondary collection lines by a cluster of lane committees and loans to the CBO that is formed by this cluster also an innovation that is more complex than the tertiary lines that lane organizations are limited to. In Karachi, maintenance of lines is insignificant owing to the sloped aspect and the open collection lines. In the flat plains of Punjab, extensive research and awareness work has been done into practices that prevent blockage of sewers, maintenance of gutter tops, household level septic tanks with T-connections to siphon off fluids while settling solid waste. Hand in hand with these innovations is the improvement in the capacity of government staff to access and use maintenance equipment and observe safety procedures. ASB has achieved these through years of independent action research to reach indigenous solutions adapted to local social and technical needs of Punjab. In its own leader, Mr. Nazir Ahmed Wattoo, ASB has an asset who is a unique brand of a practical visionary. He has learned through decades of failed attempts at community service through wooing officials and politicians. He believes that in the final analysis poor people must help themselves and cease to wait for government promises to mature and that the greatest dignity lies in living within ones own means.

Thematic Area

Advocacy, Credit/Micro Systems, Development, Environment, Infrastructure Development, Poverty Alleviation, Women

Demographic Focus

Rural , Urban

Operational Areas

PUNJAB Faisalabad,

Major Projects

1. Water And Sanitation (1995-still)
Theme:
Project Area: Faisalabad Urban Slums

Future Plans

- Data based exisisting infrastructre documinted Mapping of Cities

Contact us

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