

Highlights of 2011 - Women Desk Church of Pakistan Lahore Diocese

Focus I: Safeguarding Women Health Status

113 Seminars/Doctor's Days on Reproductive and Community Healthcare were conducted in 11 Church Parishes for Women Fellowship Groups. In addition to awareness sessions, female doctors provided consultancy to patients among church congregation.



Women Fellowship Groups Getting Together to Listen and Learn on Healthcare

Impact Indicator: Appointment of Four Lady Health Workers, Increasing access for women and young girls to information on healthcare in rural and poor slums localities .Sensitization on women's equal role in reproductive choices. Frequent discussion and awareness sessions held on HIV AIDS, therefore less stigma and discrimination is faced while talking about these issues with church congregations and Activities for Womenfolk were specified in Churches Parishes.

Focus 2: Skill Enhancement Training – Income Generating Choices

Four Skill Learning Courses – Sewing and Stitching and Beautician – for four/five months were offered in four church parishes. 146 girls were enrolled and 115 completed their course.



St.Peter's Church Clarkabad

St. Mary's Church Green Town

St.John's Church Mia Mir

Impact Indicator: To date 16 girls have got jobs and many are providing home based services to earn their sustenance.

Following are a few stories that brought economic opportunity to the world of the following persons.

Samaira Bashir 28, who is a house maid, after completing her training in beautician course is now able to provide beauty services to her clients and earn money. She also feels that she will soon start her own beauty saloon as her business to earn her sustenance.

Any Bashir, 25, has completed her training in sewing and stitching. Her parents are unemployed and now she stitches clothes and earns money for the livelihood of her family.

Shahzadi David (18) completed her training in beauty skills and provides home beauty services to her clients. On her account, she earns Rs. 300 to Rs.500 a day.

Samina (18) and Any (20) got a job in a beauty parlour after completing their training in beauty skills

Focus 3: Bible Study Course on Women and Theology

October 2010 saw the initiation of one year Bible Study Course on Women and Theology to build an understanding on gender justice in terms of contextual theological interpretations. Women characters in Bible were related to the differently situated women of Pakistan. Participants belong to different church denominations that experienced the getting together of ecumenical group.



Bible Study Course comprising 12 months was completed in October 2011

Impact Indicator: Ecumenical relations were formed between representatives from Salvation Army, O.M.Team, Catholic Maktaba-e-Anaweem, Catholic Sisters of Charity, and Open Theological Seminary. Feminist Theology was studied the very first in four series wise lectures.

Focus 4: Training Workshop/Capacity Building on First Aid Community Based Healthcare and Disaster Management

Four Training Workshops were conducted for 90 youth members in collaboration with International Red Crescent/Cross. Each workshop was conducted for four days. The training contents included emergency response to heart failure, shock, fainting, drowning, choking, fever, fits, wounds and bleedings, injuries to bone, muscles, ligaments, joints, - burn and scalds, poisoning, dressing, handling and transportation.



Youth Groups of St.John Church and Galilee Church participating in Training Workshops

Focus 3: Floods Recovery Project

For economic opportunity and livelihood, the inhabitants of floods ravaged areas were approached. Keeping in view the viability of income generating choices, 75 persons were given cash for work, 25 women were allotted sewing machines and 45 goats were given to small scale farmers.



Distribution to Floods Affected at Convent School Rangpur Muzafgarh

Impact Indicators

- Siraj Fazal (50), a farmer by profession purchased fertilizer and pesticides from the cash support. In this way, he avoided taking loan on high interest rates
- Clara Micheal, 55 was given a dairy goat. She reared and fed it and now the goat is about to deliver a kid, which she will sell and make money.
- Rakhil James 35, who has received a sewing machine, is earning approximately Rs. 1500 to 2000 a month by stitching clothes for communities living nearby.

Thank you:

Dr.Alexander John Malik, Bishop of Lahore Church of Pakistan for sanctioning the projects and providing conducive environment for the implementation of project activities.

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Project Team led by Ayra Inderyas, Secretary Women Desk Church of Pakistan Lahore Diocese