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WAJ ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17

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INTRODUCTION Welfare Association Jared (WAJ) emerged in 1988 as non-profit and non-governmental rights based development organization to: VISION "Democratic, Peaceful, prosperous and environment friendly society" MISSION "Bring about democratic stability, social harmony and economic prosperity by mobilizing the marginalized community and youth in a way so that they may be able to transform their lives as an active citizen by promoting and protecting human rights, NR conservation, and better use of human resources." a) Work for the rights of deprived and marginalized communities b) Integrate the women and marginalised into mainstream development process Actively advocate their livelihood and fundamental human rights d) Bring about the much needed policy and institutional changes in the state structures. From 1988 to 1993 WAJ remained an advocacy-oriented CBO focusing on environmental issues, particularly deforestation in Kaghan Valley. WAJ, with the support of Sungi Development Foundation mobilized a network of civil society activists to launch campaigns related to change in forest laws in KPK (the then NWFP) and ban on forest cooperative societies. Sarhad Awami Forestry Ittehad (SAFI) was formed as a result of joint efforts of NGOs/CBOs in KPK. The devastating floods of 1992 brought WAJ into direct contact with local communities as it mobilized emergency relief work in the area. Their increased contact with local communities brought out the demand for environment friendly and sustained development support. At the same time, the organization realized that a number of human factors were responsible for aggravating the devastation of flooding, particularly poor natural resource management. WAJ established networks of village organization (VOs) of both men and women, first time in the history of area. A supreme council comprised of local elders and ex-councillors was formed to guide WAJ in local political matters.

WAJ played very effective role in Local Government (LG) election 2001 and 2005 and motivated women take part in LG election as contestant and voters first time. With the assistance of TVO, CIDA, BHC, FNF, UNDP and other donors, WAJ with the support of Sungi implemented an integrated Community Support Program, while sustaining its policy of advocacy initiatives. By 1997, WAJ had gained sufficient experience in community development and policy advocacy. The organization enjoyed respect and confidence of the civil society.

Approach towards Development



WAJ with the support of various donors started work on rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in valley Kaghan and completed dozen of projects i.e. link road, drinking water supply scheme, irrigation water channel, retaining walls to protect land from soil erosion etc.

The program Area:

The selection of WAJ's initial program areas was based on a region's level of poverty and willingness of rural communities to become partners of WAJ. The district Mansehra was selected as initial potential program area of WAJ because the main mission of the organization was sustainable development of communities with conservation of NR protection for a economic, political and environmental wellbeing of the target area people.

WAJ's social mobilization program aims to empower men and women to organize their own democratic self-governing groups or community organizations through a participatory approach, and to build their own platforms through which they can access their rights on a collective basis, and are enabled to take policy level advocacy initiatives. WAJ's focus area is the ultra-poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups of society.

During 2010 the main focus of the SSP III program, which started in July 2009, was on interventions in new areas; increasing outreach in new villages in already intervened areas; establishment of new grass root community structures in these areas; involving ultra-poor segments of the community by conducting wellbeing analysis of households at village level; and graduation of WAJ's working areas in all its zones by conducting graduation orientation sessions for capacity building with the objective of enabling them to operate their Area Coordination Councils (ACCs) independently. The program also focused on building capacities of local communities and field staff; strengthening and revitalization of community platforms; facilitating village development plans and productive linkages; and ensuring accountability mechanisms at Union Council (UC) level in the five working districts.

Gender mainstreaming was and women, the ultra-poor and the disabled, were enabled to actively participate in the process for social change and development.

WAJ Thematic Areas

1. Governance & Peace:

Governance and Peace that are more responsive to the needs of the poor were identified as the key thematic area around which WAJ should build its future work.

Being a rights-based development organization, WAJ believes that sustainable development is only possible by promoting good governance and democratic attitudes among people. It believes that social mobilization is a powerful instrument for decentralization of policies and programs aimed at human and institutional resource development at local level, as it enables people to organize for collective action from a rights-based perspective.

WAJ started its TDEA/USAID funded election observation project "Citizens' Observation for Transparent and Accountable Elections in Pakistan" in Nov, 2017. The project is being implemented in district Battagram of KPK.

Statement of Work The project comprises of three phases, to be implemented by the partner organization: In order to increase citizens' understanding and confidence in political and electoral processes through election observation and oversight, the partner organization will adopt a comprehensive strategy for smooth, transparent and effective implementation of the interventions under Grants Cycle 13 as detailed in this document, and other project documents including annexures and guidelines that may be provided from time to time. Section provides a breakdown of the illustrative activities/phases and sequence for long-term pre-election, medium-term pre-election and election day observation.



1.2 Social Mobilization:

WAJ is working in 50 UCs of 7 district of Hazara division Haripur, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Tourghar, Battagram, Kohsitan-I and Kohsitan-II till June 2017.

1.3 Institutional Development:

Basic information about each UC was collected through social mapping and wellbeing analysis to identify poor and ultra-poor households, and the most marginalized 15 villages of each UC were selected for further work. The communities were then sensitized regarding democratic methods of working, and the importance of participation of the ultra-poor in the development process.

Community Structures with 50% representation from women, religious and ethnic minorities, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and transgenes in executive committees were formed or strengthened in 10 UCs/district.

Social Organization Primary Trainings (SOPTs) were conducted and regular meetings held. Results showed that traditional power structures were challenged and the role of the poor in decision making at local level was enhanced. Overall 55% of the poor achieved representation in executive positions.

1.4 Community Development Planning:

Partner communities identified their issues, set priorities and developed plans for future action. 70 UCDPs were facilitated with community partners, including 1066 men and 1339 women. In this process both men and women developed their integrated development plans for their village through participatory methods.

Lack of awareness about basic constitutional rights, no availability of health and education facilities especially for women and children, diseases and death of livestock, soil erosion, non-availability of infrastructure and clean drinking water, unemployment and lack of skills, deforestation and forest fires, lack of capacities regarding disaster management, and absence of CNICs and exclusion from voting lists were identified during the planning phase. Action plans were developed with emphasis on effective utilization of locally available resources, and building linkages with Government Line Agencies (GLAs), government institutions and non-government organizations to solve these problems.

1.5 Accountability:

With the purpose of promoting community led accountability, partner organizations line departments share experiences, identify priorities and develop strategies to address local problems.

WAJ introduced 'Citizen Portal' bases complaint handling session with the communities. WAJ head office launched 34 complaints of public interest on "Citizen Portal" out of which 10 were resolved.

2.1 POLICY ADVOCACY

2.2 Campaigns/Networking for Policy and Political Reforms:

Activities in 2017 remained focused on campaigns for approval of women friendly bills in KP assembly.

2.3 Where WAJ does standsregarding Gender mainstreaming:

Confronting gender inequity is one of the primary challenge faced by development actors. Gender inequity not only hinders effective social and economic development but it also promotes injustice and violence. Discrimination against women in Pakistan has been institutionalized in patriarchal ideologies, repressive laws and through the implementation of unjust and inequitable socio-economic polices. The cumulative manifestation of these factors can be observed in the



continued trends towards the feminization of poverty, high women mortality and the increase in violence against women.

The need to reverse such trends emerged from the realization that women are leading and primary actors in the effort for sustainable development. Across the developing world, women have been identified as key actors in the development process, because of their ability to efficiently manage resources. Women lost their entity due to low status, structural, cultural, personal and institutional barriers;

The low status assigned to them is justified and perpetuated through a set of beliefs, attitudes and practices which, because they are widely held, appear to be 'the way things are'. These shape institutions and the way they work. The systems of institutions shaped by these beliefs and practices exclude women from decision-making spaces, minimize their choices, block their access to and control over and resources and limit the freedom of individuals to develop their capabilities.

The key *structural barrier* to women's participation in public life is the designation of the home as the only natural and appropriate space for women and the public sphere as the natural and appropriate domain for men. In a society which privileges and grants power to men, they are considered to have a right to not only occupy public spaces but also to control the private domain.

Cultural barriers stem from the expectations and norms about what a woman can or cannot be, have or do, what is respectable or not and what constitutes a 'good' woman and a 'real' man. For example, women are expected to serve and care for their families, not to ask for male members of their families to help them run an election campaign. Women are expected to have limited contact with men who are not family members, and not go door-to-door, canvassing for votes.

Personal barriers stem from women's own confidence, capabilities and capacities. Women's lower status in society and confinement to the home can lead to lack of confidence, ambition, education, economic resources, knowledge, and skills required to enter into politics. Women internalize negative images of them and can through their own behavior perpetuate inequality.

Institutional barriers to women's participation primarily stem from the policies, systems and practices of institutions such as political parties, legislatures, government departments, the Election Commission of Pakistan and formal and informal decision-making bodies such as Musalihati Anjumans, Panchayats and jirgas. These are currently dominated by influential men and the policies, systems and practices which systematically discriminate against and exclude women and transgender persons.

WAJ is working in the conservative area where women face issues of low status assigned by the society decreased participation in public and private decision-making, exclusion in decision making processes at all level and exclusion from social services.

WAJ vision is "Democratic, Peaceful, prosperous and environmental friendly society"

Guided by this vision the organization aims to foster and encourage women's participation not just as beneficiaries, but as actors fully engaged in planning and carrying out activities, including decision-making at all levels. WAJ is not only trying to incorporate women into existing models of development but through the fuller participation of women and men, the possibility exists to move towards a sustainable development that builds on people's potential. The WAJ efforts mainstreaming gender is a confirmation and elaboration in ensuring gender equality at all levels.

WA aims to nurture and strengthen democratic processes from the grassroots to contribute to creating a more humane, democratic, inclusive and tolerant Pakistan. The organization is premised on the belief that all citizens are entitled to a government which respects their full and equal human rights. If women who constitute half the population of Pakistan are not fully represented in government, if



citizens are marginalized, due to their religion, race, ethnicity, their dignity and right to representation violated, there can be no true democracy.

The meaningful inclusion and active participation of women and other socially excluded citizens in political processes, conflict resolution and advocacy for improved services is at the heart of WAJ's work

As a rights-based development organization, the pursuit for women's empowerment and gender equality is at the core of WAJ's work. Gender perspective is manifested in its vision and mission and gender mainstreaming is an embraced strategy that is promoted to run throughout all its programs.

WAJ is a gender sensitive organization, works for accelerating the progress of achieving SDG Goal # 5 "ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls". It has been proven time and again, that empowering women and girls has a multiplier effect, and helps drive up economic growth and development across the board gender mainstreaming at the organizational and programmatic levels. It also considers the policy mandates on women's empowerment and gender equality, specifically the CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WAJ aims at integrating the gender perspective in its entire development cycle. To do this, it needs to specifically identify the following as its enabling element: gender segregated data collection, gender analysis, capacity building, advocacy, gender sensitive resources allocation, and gender balance. It has adopted/identified four entry points in the organization to mainstream gender, and these are: people -(both staff and beneficiaries/partners), policies (at organizational and programmatic levels), enabling mechanisms, and programs.

Following are the WAJ's strategic objectives for achieving gender mainstreaming in the organization;

- To enhance knowledge, skills, and attitude of WAJ's staff and partners for gender and development (GAD) and gender mainstreaming.
- To promote gender perspective in human resources policies, systems, decisionmaking structures and process.
- To strengthen and institutionalize gender policies and enabling mechanisms
- To apply gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system throughout the whole development cycle i.e. planning, budgeting, implementation, post-implementations impact assessment, including a tracking down of budget allocated for GAD initiatives

2.4 Purpose of the Campaign

Although many organizations and government departments are working on the issue of Gender based violence through different channels like seminars, workshops and observing related days. This year welfare association Jared (WAJ) tried to bring a little change in it by celebrating and observing the International 16 days of Campaign Violence against women and girls in three districts of KP (Haripur, Abbottabad and Mansehra). For this purpose WAJ communicated its Focal persons of these districts and provide them with relative material for executing purpose of campaign.

From this 16 days campaign WAJ wants to get the perception of general public, students and older people who have an influential state in the region. Also to document the campaign and send a compiled version of campaign to Government of KP so they can boost up their work regarding to Gender biased violence.



2.5 Objectives

- Raise awareness among communities including youth and students of schools and colleges about increasing gender based violence and ways to address it.
- Build pressure on legislators for legislation on women rights
- Build an advocacy campaign on domestic violence legislation at provincial level in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

2.6 Methodology

Sites:

- o Abbottabad
- o Haripur
- o Mansehra

Sampling method:

Random sampling method

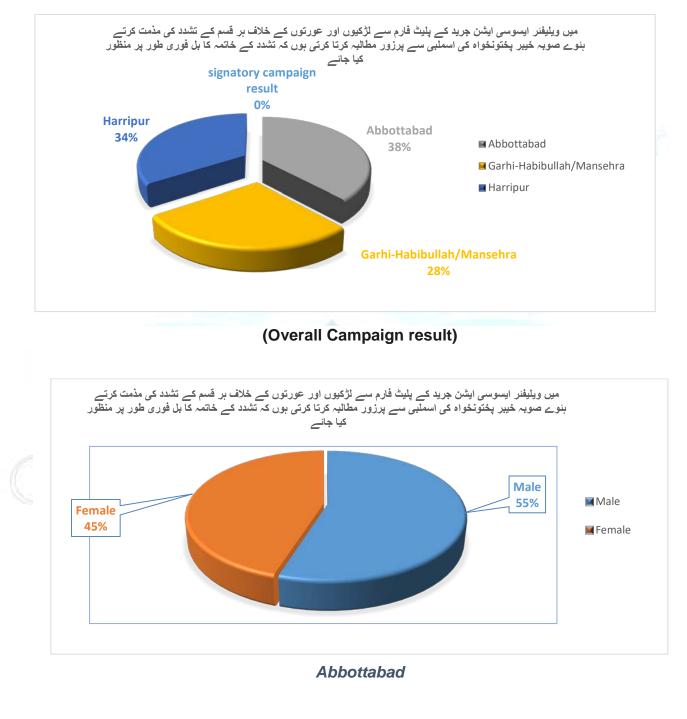
Sampling size:

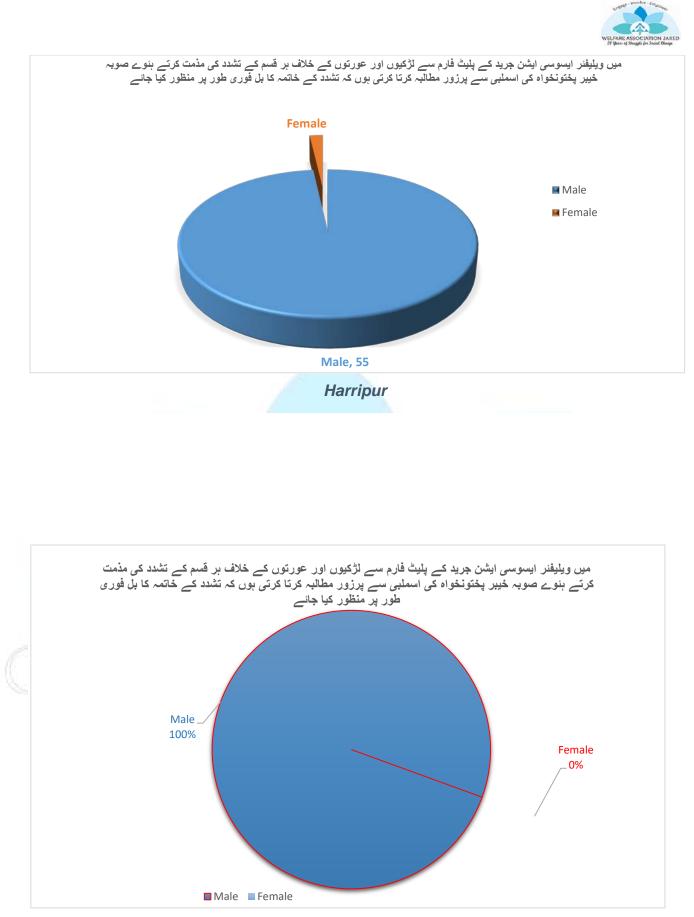
Cluster Sampling



2.7 Statistical analysis

The following statistical analysis is based on the result gathered from the field work and then converted into statistical form. These graphs shows which gender is more involved and want to be involved in the activities like sensitizing the society about Gender based issues and how much they want and demand from the Provincial Government to pressurize the Federal Government to pass the Domestic Violence bill as soon as it can be.





Garhi-Habibullah/Mansehra

The statistical data shows that Male respondents are more interested and willing to play their part to promote the cause of Gender Base Violence. The campaign was divided into



three operational categories (a) young students from Government colleges, district Abbottabad was selected to execute this operation. (b) Young students from private colleges and for this purpose district Haripur were selected. (c) City Garhi-Habibullah of district Mansehra covers the campaign while making sure the involvement of influential and local stakeholders in the region.

Overall result shows that there is and understanding about Gender Based Violence but people are living in the state of hesitation to speak about it openly, even this includes young male and female students of some prominent colleges.

WAJ tried its best to involve the schools in this campaign hoping that the new slot of teachers which KP government brought in the system through an accountable and merit base selection criteria in past 4 years of their government, but not a single school showed any kind of interest regarding the campaign. The responses from schools were not encouraging. One of the focal person from a school stated that "we are not allow to do such kinds of activities also this will not put a good image and impression to the parents of students because of their conservative mind." This puts these teachers in the middle of the road without knowing where they stand while fighting with the social and eastern orthodox issues, even after graduated by reputed Universities and then recruited through the proper channel.

District Abbottabad:

Abbottabad is also known as "City of Schools" and currently it's on the top of the literacy index of Pakistan, scoring 95+ percentages on the charts. But the experience on ground and the field work shows that still orthodox issues are becoming the barriers in the way of social development. Government colleges and schools were reluctant to start the. The reasons they mentioned were "school administration do not accept or give approval to their children's to get involve is such kind of activities, and we have security issues so we can't give any approval for such activities in school/college premises. "Some colleges and schools agreed on the term that WAJ will not mention directly the School/college name and the names of their staff members.

The campaign was supported by male, and the students expressed their concerns about gender based violence that they were facing in the society As they wanted to work openly on the issue of gender based violence but the society restrain all their activities on the name of culture and religion. Remaining 45% of the respondents were females. They also wanted to play their positive role. They expressed their thoughts in which they mentioned very clearly "we are not afraid of educated people also they are not the cause for prevailing gender violence in the region. Actual threat for women and girls are the illiterate people religious clergy who have no other work to do rather than perpetuating stereotypes attached with women.

The student suggested including 'violence against women' and its root causes in the school curriculum. They emphasized on members provincial assembly to create laws and enforce existing laws that protect women from all forms of discrimination and violence.



Media Coverage:



Pledge Evidence



میں ویلیفئر ایسوسی ایشن جرید کے پلیٹ فارم سے لڑکیوں اور عورتوں کے خلاف ہر قسم کے تشدد کی مذمت کرتے بنوے صوبہ خیبر پختونخواہ کی اسملپی سے پرزور مطالبہ کرتا/کرتی ہوں کہ تشدد کے خاتمہ کا بل فوری طور پر منظور کیا جائے۔

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District Haripur:

The district showed a verv warm welcome to WAJ and without anv hesitation accepted the proposal to run and observe the campaign in district Haripur. For this purpose Focal person of WAJ executed the campaign in different colleges of Haripur. The response was very good from the colleges of Haripur; also the campaign got massive media coverage. Students expressed their thoughts about gender based violence and signed the pledges to put pressure on the Government of KP passing



long awaited bill on Gender based Violence in KP assembly

Chair Person DCSW Haripur Discourse:

Chair Person DCSW District Haripur Sajida Hasrat Khan Participated in the activity as chief guest at Punjab College, she thanked Welfare Association Jared for organizing this event as women constitute more than half of the population but still their rights of equal citizenship and access to equal opportunities are being neglected. Without taking them into consideration our country can never progress so their inclusion in political and public spheres is important. This discrimination begins from home so we need to educate more women and girls who will be the element of change in our coming generations. It is crucial to raise awareness and conduct Signatory Campaigns, rallies/walks to condemn violence against women and speak up for women rights.

Continuing to which **Principal Punjab Group of colleges Haripur Mr. Iqbal Khan** also gave his remarks and encouraged Youth to come out as they did in this Signatory Campaign and stand united against the social evils and raise demands for basic necessities which are important for respectable survival and focused on girls education that we should make it our aim that no girl in our surrounding remains uneducated, he added that women empowerment, education and health facilities are the most crucial needs of modern age. The world is developing to state of the art standards but unfortunately we are still struck by the harmful customs and traditions which are limiting our growth and are restricting women from leading from the front.

During the 16 days campaign held by WAJ in District Haripur, participants also raised given below demands

- The law for early age marriages should be amended and the minimum age for marriage should be increased to 18 years meanwhile the punishment and penalty should be increased.
- Steps should be taken to ensure gender equality which shall prove accurate to bring women and marginalized groups on equal levels
- In all police stations female clerics should be appointed.
- Education and democratic practices should be promoted to eliminate Extremism and intolerance,.
- Effective implementation of laws regarding violence against women and justice delivery should be insured on priority basis.

Media coverage:









Chair Person DCSW Haripur Sajida Hasrat celebrating the campaign in

Pledge Evidence:



میں ویلیفنر ایسوسی ایشن جرید کے پلیٹ فارم سے لڑگیوں اور عورتوں کے خلاف ہر رقسم کے تشدد کی مذمت کرتے بنوے صوبہ خیبر پختونخواہ کی اسملیی سے پرزور مُطالبہ کرتا/کرتی ہوں کہ تشدد کے خاتمہ کا بل فوری طور پر منظور کیا جاتے۔

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District Mansehra (Garhi Habbibullah):

WAJ took the initiative for the first time in the history of region by involving the elder men's of village's surroundings **Garhi Habbibullah.** The focal person of WAJ met with the elder men's in a local hotel, where they discussed the issues of females and girls in the region. Despite of village area and low literacy rate the respondent shows more interest to work on the issues of Gender based Violence.

They also signed the pledges and shared their views end violence against women and girls. They emphasized on provincial legislators pass the bills on violence against women. Participant's suggestions are given below;

 Educate community social activists and general community on their responsibilities under international and national human rights laws.



- Sensitize the activists
 especially women and girls about early child marriages.
- Encourage women to participate in the political process and educate the public about the value of women's votes.
- Raise public awareness of the poor conditions some women face, particularly in rural areas.

Dr. Munir Qureshi, one of the active social worker and Village councilor opined, to revive the micro finance support to women of the Garhi Habbibullah. Prior to this an NGO (SUNGI) was running this support mechanism through which hundreds of marginalized community women were benefiting directly, but due to unknown reasons they stopped it and rolled back the program putting all vulnerable women in state of destitute.

Nazim VC Garhi Habbibullah demanded reinitiating of the micro finance program in Garhi Habbibullah.

'WAJ' Activists had constituted the "Women Jirga Committee" in 2015, headed by Ms. Ruqiya. 44 women were part of that WJC which was supervised by AC Balakot and SHO, P.S. Garhi Habbibullah, formation of the committee was mainly aimed to eliminate all form of violence against women and Girls (VAW&G).



This was demanded by participants that activities of that WJC should be initiated again, as this committee had contributed a lot in raising women voice in local Jirga processions and supported the women of the area a lot, due to this Committee a lot of women came up in last local elections and most of them won their seats. Many women were availing legal support



Naseer Ahmed Project Manager WAJ and Dr. Muneer Social

and financial assistance through Micro finance Program (MFP) and WJC activities.

This was requested to Welfare Association Jared to shoulder the responsibility of the destitute and vulnerable women and support them to stand up on their feet. WJC needs to be supported and assisted in her activities so as to make women of the area aware regarding their rights and obligations.

2.8 Conclusion

Females and general public are reluctant to participate or to even talk about Gender Based Violence (GBV) because they feel uncomfortable to express their thoughts and feelings. But in case of government educational institutes the administration also seems reluctant. And most of the victims think that it's their own fault, they think so because they are trained to think like this. Even with good literacy rate our society is still struggling with orthodox issues. Our society always blames their daughters, in simple words neither parents nor the children are open-minded and literate enough to accept the issue and then proceed forward to talk about it and condemn it. Every single person knows that this issue is prevailing rapidly in the society but no one is accepting to take steps because they are afraid of society's conservatives norms and values, even they know it is not good for our own daughters. The biggest step will be to make people understand, to give them precise and actual knowledge of the issues, for them to not point the fingers at anyone but just to accept the issue and for once, open their minds and listen to someone else speak, and try to understand it. Now it's clear that Provincial vernment should pressurize the Federal Government to pass the Domestic Violence bill as soon as it can be.



3.1. Environmental Protection

Promoting Sustainable use of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

WAJ arranged 3-days workshop on Non Timber Forest Product (NTFP) in Khanspur Ayubia. The

workshop was organized by Directorate of NTFP KP. The objective behind the workshop was to appraise the local plants collectors, Hakeem, CSOs, forest department, horticulturist and the officials from NTFP Directorate about sustainable use of NTFP. Director NTFP welcomed the participants and briefed about the objectives of workshop.

Bio-Diversity day was celebrated with the local community and students of Govt Higher Secondary School and college Khanspur Ayubia on May 22, 1013.



Following sessions were delivered during the three–day workshop by various resource persons followed by field visit to identify the medicinal plant;

- 1. Mushroom as a source of livelihood by Noor Rahman DO NTFP Swat
- Apiculture an income generating activity for Forest dependent communities in KP by Noor Rahman DO NTFP Swat
- Bio-Diversity & Livestock by Rashid Hussain Assistant Director NTFP Peshawar
- Harvesting, post-harvesting, Processing and Value Addition of medicinal plant by Dr. Muhammad Sidique PARC



- 5. Marketing and Planning by Atifullah and Osaidullah DO NTFP
- Group work on policy management, capacity building and policy recommendation to manage the NTFP



It was very good opportunity for the participants to learn about the precious potential resource of NTFP that comprise 95 of the forest value. Lectures, presentations, group work and demonstration were arranged for the participants of the workshop to know about the sustainable use of NTFP its importance and proper management. Directorate KP is doing great service to orient, train and equip various stakeholders in proper identification and sustainable use of NTFP. Certificate was distributed at the end of workshop.



.1 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Linkages

WAJ's developed strong linkages with LG elected representatives, government line agencies, elected legislations, INGOs, NGOs and various networks across the country. At present WAJ is member of FAFEN. TDEA, HRDN, SUN-CSA-Pak.

WAJ membership with EAD, SAFRON, Global Water Partnership, Insaf network, PWP, Amnesty International, and HRCP is under process.