CASE STUDY
“ALEENA - WASH CLUB MEMBER”

Sindh Agriculture Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization
PRE-INTERVENTION CONTEXT

In the far north western plain of Sindh province, in a landscape once heavily populated by non-Muslim before partition of subcontinent, taluka Maharabpur now dominated by feudal lords. Despite of satisfactory result in literacy rate of the district Naushahro Feroze, Sindh government has declared emergency in education department due to high student drop out ratio. One of the main reason of dropping out often considered is lack of infrastructure in schools.

Government primary school, Ali Muhammad Mangrio is surviving school in emergency declared situation where infrastructure is required to be improved since school is lacking toilet for students. The drop out ratio of girls’ students is dramatically increased where girl’s education is perceived as taboo in the society. Situation of water and sanitation in school is poorer of the poorest since students practice open defecation in the school. Due to open defecation students mostly fell ill and unable to attend school. Thus, there was an urgent need to not only aware student and teachers about WASH but also empower them to have access to those facilities.

WASH INTERVENTIONS

To respond such a scenario, SAFWCO along with its mobilization and technical team visited school to improve the wash facilities. A wash club was formed to empower the students to take charge of water and sanitation hygiene problems. The super girl of WASH club named Aleena is the student of 4th standard. During the training she was felt the pain of those girls who are out of school due to poor wash facility within the school. Aleena explained the reason of her friend not coming to school that she feels shy to practice open defecation in school premises.

To solve this problem, engineering core of SAWFCO conducted school assessment for new WASH facility. BOQs were developed and got approved from the higher authorities to build a new WASH facility within school to boost up the enrollment. On other hand Aleena and her class mate took interest in WASH club activities after completing her training as wash club member. She had good command in communicating
with villagers on personal, domestic and environmental hygiene. She is encouraged by her parents and now her home remains neat and clean.

“She not only support SAFWCO for the WASH intervention but she has also built up her social capital and support nutrition activities to reduce stunting with children. She uses MUAC tape to assess the stunting with children in the school as well as in the village. She has developed strong relationship with HELP – NGO working on Nutrition – and support them in their cause. She easily explains the program of wash and nutrition and support both organizations to achieve their humanitarian cause. She has developed strong skills to screen out children in nutrition program by using MUAC tape. She is often referred as child doctor in the village.

She strictly monitors the personal hygiene of her fellow students and led the hand washing demonstration on critical timings. WASH club under the leadership of super girl has developed the sense of making people aware about their issues related to development. They used to celebrate the international day celebration in the school and village to make people aware about social and economic issues. WASH club is empowered to lead the approach toward school led total sanitation that has contributed in higher enrollment of the students within school.

“Now, when I see people throwing things in street or students through garbage in school premises, I tell them not to do that even emphasize them to use dustbins installed by SAFWCO at our school”. 

(ALEENA, 13)
**IMMEDIATE OUTPUT**

Enrolment of the school dramatically increased after intervention, students are being monitored by teachers for their personal hygiene. All the students use soap for hand washing and wash club maintain the environmental hygiene of the school.

**IMPACT OF INTERVENTIONS.**

The WASH interventions created multi-dimensional impacts in improving the water and sanitation hygiene.

The hand washing skills led them to better health and hygiene conditions. Routinely practice of hand washing will sustain them from diseases and other diseases transmitted through oral contact that will lead higher enrolment ratio.

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WASH club champions take active part along with community resource person to ensure the open defecation free enabled environment in the village. They use to preach the messages related to health and hygiene.

Due to open defecation, free school status, students are healthy and take active part in recreational activities held at school levels.

Association with SAFWCO & VWC has increased WASH club’s member’s social capital because they interact with people from diverse backgrounds and learns from their experiences since they are becoming role models for other children.