

# LPP Seminar for Members of Local Government

Summary of Meeting

March 24,  
2006

On March 24, 2006 the Foundation for Integrated Development Action (FIDA) arranged a one-day experience-sharing seminar for the local representatives and Town Municipal Authority (TMA) staff of five tehsils of district DI Khan. The district Naib Nazim, Haji Abdur Rasheed Dhap, and Tehsil Nazim DI Khan, Fateh Ullah Khan Miankhail, and other TMA staff participated in this seminar. Mr. Najeeb Aslam, Program Coordinator LPP, was the chief guest.

Mr. Fateh Ullah Khan Miankhail explained his role and responsibilities and those of local government representatives. He stressed to the UC Nazims and Naib Nazim the importance of adopting the participatory approach and concentrating on the public welfare work with the coordination of FIDA and NUPAP representatives. He said that FIDA and NUPAP had brought an urban development concept in front of the local government and that the TMO is a competent person who has the abilities to perform a major role in development work in DI Khan. He explained that the TMO was part of the delegation that had gone to Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP) for an exposure visit on 3 –5 March. He concluded his address and paid thanks to Mr. Faiysal AliKhan's work and efforts for DI Khan and appreciation for his team who is working with honesty and attention in his absence.

Mr. Najeeb Aslam reviewed the LPP exposure visit of district government representatives of DI Khan. He noted their keen interest and motivation to develop DI Khan, as well as the motivational effort made by Mr. Faiysal AliKhan and his team members. He explained that the main objective of visit of LPP representatives to DI Khan on FIDA's invitation is "sharing the low-cost participatory approach in drainage and sanitation for community empowerment." He gave an LPP presentation to 121 participants who came from five tehsils of district DI Khan to share information, as well as gaining knowledge from experts. The Project Coordinator gave a multimedia presentation of their project covering the history of LPP, background, objectives and components of PRSSP Project, and the inspiration behind the project.

While explaining the vision of LPP, the Project Coordinator said that their aim was to make the people participate in the activities where their own welfare lies. This type of participation on the part of the people creates a "sense of belonging" among the people. He said, "A thing which belongs to everyone, belongs to no one." This has become evident in the current state of public sector projects. LPP's aim was to create a sense of possession among the community by taking financial contribution from them and by making them actively participate in the project. The structure of LPP governing body was also explained. He explained component-wise progress from inception till March 2006. At the end of the presentation, a detailed question and answer was carried out. This indicated the interest of the participant in low-cost sanitation.

**Q: Have you involved the community in the projects, particularly the CCBs?**

**A:** Yes. LPP acknowledges the importance of CCB's role towards sustainable participatory development. After execution of the sanitation scheme, the Village Sanitation Committee became more active in taking up further such projects. Therefore, they are encouraged and supported to transform into a CCB. These CCBs are also welcomed at TMA level and are given preference in award of CCB projects pertaining to street pavements in their respective villages.

**Q: What is the nature of the participation of the community?**

A: The Village Sanitation Committee, which represents the whole village, not only collects the money contributions, but also supervises the work and buys the materials. Those who can not pay their due share of money, also work as a labor. All the labor and material are locally bought and used by the community itself.

**Q: What difficulties did you face and what was the response of the people?**

A: Difficulties and hurdles are part of all participatory projects, and we also had the same fate. We never lost heart and we launched a hectic social mobilization campaign and convinced everyone about the usefulness of this program.

During the last session, Mr. Khalid Warrich, Field Operation Manager, presented a detailed explanation of the technical components of the project. He explained that the basic purpose of institutions was to bring a positive and well directed change. TMAs and the Union Council cannot do this alone because of the large gap that existed between the community and public sector. The private sector organizations had been involved by the government in such activities in recognition of their importance as a catalyst between the public and the government. Mr. Warrich highlighted the role of consultation with the community for the launching of any project. Then he presented the following components of sub-project and the described the use of technologies making it a low-cost model:

- I. Conceptual Packages
- II. Actors and their Roles for Sustainable Development
- III, What Makes Low-Cost Sanitation?
  - A. Local Resource Mobilization
    - i. Elected Representatives
    - ii. Government Officials
    - iii. Community Representatives
  - B. Use of Local Material
  - C. Enhancement of Local Skills
  - D. Elimination of Contractor's Role
  - E. Employing Local Labor
  - F. Capturing Volunteerism
- IV. Technologies of Low-Cost Model.
  - A. Use of Simple Pipes
  - B. Design of Manhole Cover
  - C. Design of Disposal Work
  - D. Construction of T-Hozi

At the end of his presentation, the following queries were made on the technical aspects of low cost model:

**Q: The disposal unit dimensions are not given in your presentation. Why?**

A: It is because the dimensions vary from place to place.

**Q: What's the total estimate of the project?**

A: It depends upon the number of houses in the village.

**Q: What is the depth of the manhole?**

A: The depth of manhole varies depending upon slope of the ground.

**Q: Who is responsible for sealing the disposal well, if it still up?**

A: The person whose land is used for the disposal unit is responsible for cleaning of disposal well. In return, he has the incentive of irrigation water for his land. The de-silting of whole system is the responsibility of all VSC members.

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