Community Involvement in Provision of Water and Sanitation

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Rationale for Local Action

Faisalabad is the third biggest city of Pakistan. With 2.5 million population, the numerous slums and squatter settlements around the city have little access to clean drinking water and sanitation services.

The poor drinking water has led to chronic gastric, skin diseases. Another major problem was open drains seeping into the foundation of houses, and polluting the underground water. Moreover, 95% of the houses were being damaged.
Critical issue

is Wastage of resources rather than lack of resources.

• Over the years the government despite having received billions of dollars as foreign loans / aids failed to provide basic amenities due to contractor profit and leakage in the Govt. resources

• poor communities are suffering adversely waiting on Govt. hopes of development plan in the next budget due to Water logging.
Solution

• **ASB** mobilized and organized communities to construct their own Water and Sanitation infrastructure on **Component Sharing basis** where people and govt. work as partners on two levels of development

• **Internal Development**
  - Inside the house latrine in the lane
  - Underground sewerage connected with Municipal network. **Communities are Responsible for this part**

• **External Development**
  - above than the lane level Construction of trunk & Secondary sewers, Disposal, Treatment plants etc. **Govt. or donor’s Responsibility**:
Which creates sense of ownership. Reduces responsibilities, ensures financial and human resources, involvement of all stakeholders in the O & M,
ASB believes that poor people must help themselves instead of waiting for government Promises to be implemented.

- ASB has developed a mutual trust between all stakeholders (policy makers, planners, implementers and NGO’s) by understanding departmental process, identifying service delivery gaps.

- ASB assists municipalities in the city-wide data based existing infrastructure documented GIS mapping of Water and Sanitation to analyze and reconcile for master planning.

- This process ensures transparency, multi-lateral monitoring and accountability which strengthen good governance and rebuild the trust of government departments.
ASB working as a teacher not a contractor. It is a bank of research based facts, providing information and technical support to low-income communities to build self-financed, self-managed and self-maintained their own infrastructure without waiting for grants.

Municipalities has given 50% tariff discount in localities where ASB is working.

God helps those who help themselves.
Achievements

• Work expanded from one lane to 11 Cities

• This project will be marked as a first public and private partnership who are using ultra modern GIS technology for development and having essence of community involvement

• Accepted in the National Water and Sanitation policy of the Government

• Environmental condition, economic activities and value of properties increased.

• Neighborhood disputes over water and sanitation are a thing of the past

• This is the outcome of demonstration effect of the lane with underground piped water and sewerage which reclaimed space for children’s play and pedestrian access.
Food for Thought

- Leakage in Govt. resources
- Infrastructure documented maps.
- Conflicting policies
- Hence People are poor because they are treated as poor.
- Proper information, technical and managerial guidance to their resources can solve the problems.
- Government is disempowered due to its dependence on International Financial Institutions, Consultants and Contractors.
- Informally poor people are paying all the time to Government Mafias.
- If this money is channeled into development, the financial constraints can be overcome.
Lessons Learnt

- People have resources
- But they require
- Mobilization
- Knowledge
- Skill Training
- Technical Support
- Which make them independent and empowered
- This is real and sustainable development which change their living conditions
Thank you