

HRD COMMUNIQUE

newsletter

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More than 7,000 Marginalized Men and Women from South Punjab Receive Vocational and Enterprise Training

Institute of Rural Management, in collaboration with the Government of Punjab, and financial assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has implemented the South Punjab Poverty Alleviation Programme (SPPAP) in Districts Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur to assist the Government to achieve its objectives of Economic growth and Poverty alleviation.

The overall goal of the project is to reduce rural poverty in Southern Punjab and IRM, being one of the implementing partners of the Government of

Punjab, is implementing vocational and enterprise training for poor communities of the four target districts, hence contributing in generation of enhanced employment and



self-employment opportunities. As part of the project, IRM is to provide vocational skills training to over 11555 (50% men and 50% women) and Entrepreneurship training to 3,081 including both men and women. Moreover, IRM will also offer a two year Diploma courses to 56 selected entrepreneur activists. As of November 2015, IRM has set up more than 340 field training centers in the most far flung vulnerable areas of the target districts and so far more than 7,000 marginalized men and women from South Punjab have received Vocational and Enterprise training.

ITC – ILO Collaboration Updates

IRM has memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Training Center of the ILO (ITC - ILO). Over the years, IRM has been working in close partnership with the ITC - ILO for providing training related services to develop human resources and institutional capabilities. Faculty Exchange Programme is one of the most prominent features of the MoU and each year, young staff members from IRM attach with the ITC - ILO, Turing where they get an excellent opportunity to work with top-notch professionals from all over the world.

This year Ms. Sabina Peerzada, Mr. Hassnain Malik and Ms.



Kausar Shamim were nominated for the Exchange Programme. This is an exciting experience for the young staff members as they work closely with professionals from different cultures and involve in various activities such as facilitating the ITC - ILO team with pre-training arrangements, post-training evaluations and reporting of ITC - ILO's renowned Gender and Skill Academies.

As part of the attachment, Ms. Sabina and Mr. Hasnain are currently working with the Enterprise, Microfinance & Local Development (EMLD) Programme and Sustainable Development Programme (SDP) respectively. EMLD

programme uses the knowledge base of the ILO globally to design academies, courses and training packages. Similarly, SDP designs and delivers courses in partnership with the ILO, UN sister agencies and key international institutions like the World Bank, regional development banks, universities and inter-governmental organizations.

In addition, Ms. Kausar is also attached with the Gender and Skills academy, ITC - ILO's most awaited training event of the year, where more than 100 experts representing public and private bodies participate from all around the world and share best practices and way forward for sustainable development.

IRC Annual Partners Meeting

IRM is implementing a five-year long USAID funded Pakistan Reading Project in 17 districts of Baluchistan. Mr. Aasim Reza - Project Director and Mr. Bilal Azhar - Manager Finance participated in IRC's Partners Meeting which was held in DC Washington and

New York from October 28 to November 5, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to relate what partners have been doing during the past years, to exchange ideas and to find ways to move forward more effectively.



More than 4,000 Young Entrepreneurs from FATA Receive Entrepreneurship Training at IRM's VTEC Azakhel

IRM, in collaboration with FATA Development Authority (FATA-DA), initiated an Entrepreneurship Training project in January 2012 to provide entrepreneurship training to 5,600 youth of FATA region for assisting them in setting up their own businesses.

The project is especially designed to enhance the entrepreneurial capabilities of existing and perspective entrepreneurs from FATA and provide guidance to the youth for finding jobs within the country and abroad through Business Management Skill Training (BMST)

and career counseling sessions. As a value addition, IRM is facilitating the entrepreneurs with market identification and product development and also helping them to develop linkages between the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) and entrepreneurs for gaining access to finance for setting up small scale enterprises. Participants are also given regular exposure visits to various industries. As of November 2015 IRM has successfully provided Entrepreneurship training to 4,225 individuals from the FATA region.



Training on Participatory Development

Institute of Rural Management conducted four Training workshops on Participatory Development for young activists of PPAF. The main objectives of the training programme were to;

- Refresh and update the knowledge and skills of participants on participatory development and its processes and procedures/techniques
- Introduce participants to participatory approaches in organizing communities
- Familiarize participants with national and international experiences of Social Mobilization
- Help Participants understand the concept of Social Mobilization and its role in ensuring sustainable community development
- Guide participants in maintaining proper records at different levels



IRM Smart Schools Enroll More than 800 Out of School Rural Children

Believing on 'Investing in people's knowledge and skills to promote development', IRM is establishing Smart Schools to bring out of school children back to mainstream education. The aim of IRM Smart Schools is to mobilize the underprivileged rural communities and raise awareness regarding the importance of education. The driving force behind its concept is that IRM Smart Schools will promote education at the grass roots level by involving local school teachers and encouraging them to enhance one room of their house into a classroom for a few hours to provide primary education to children aged between 4 and 15 through



a condensed curriculum using multi-grade teaching techniques. Through this initiative, IRM aims to mobilize the deprived rural communities and raise awareness on the importance of education. In the pilot phase, IRM has established 20 Smart Schools in the neglected regions of Sindh and as of November 2015 more than 800 students are enrolled

in these schools. As part of its Social Initiative Fund (SIF), IRM is paying a monthly salary to the teachers to make sure they earn a decent livelihood for their families. In addition, IRM will train the teachers on multi-grade teaching methodology and also provide furniture and stationary for the schools. IRM is also raising donations to provide school uniforms, books, bags and breakfast to the students. Through this initiative, IRM will prepare the students to fulfill the pre-requisites of secondary school and enable them to join mainstream education upon completion of their education at the Smart Schools.

One Day Recreational Trip to Khanpur

IRM organized a one day recreational trip to Khanpur on 12th November 2015. This trip is one of the many extra-curricular activities of IRM where all the staff members take some time off from their busy work schedule and get together to rekindle the spirit of team building for ensuring self development, positive communication and the ability to work closely together as a team to solve problems.



For more details about our training programmes, please visit our website www.irm.edu.pk.



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