Success lives within!!!

Gajuabad is a small village situated in the outskirts of Umerkot city. Most people rely on agriculture to earn their living. It is prohibited to sell anything on streets in the village. The health conditions are very poor in the village. Safe drinking water is not available easily. Among these common problems faced by the villagers, Family Planning and Reproductive Health is also the main concern in the village. Although some medical facilities are available in Umerkot city but it is nearly impossible to find even a pharmacy in Gajuabad.

Ajimat is a middle age housewife. Financial status of her family is very poor. After HANDS and Thardeep Rural Development Program intervened in the area with its MARVI Project, Ajimat was identified as a MARVI Worker based on her level of knowledge and skills as compared to other women who were short listed through the initial survey.

Ajimat agreed and promised that she would work with her full strength as a MARVI Worker. Six days training was provided to be able to help community and she was trained on technical and awareness raising aspects.

Initially she started working from her home and labeled her home as “MARVI Markaz”. She started inviting women from her neighborhood and gave them awareness sessions on Family Planning and Reproductive Health. She also started visiting houses to meet women who were not able to attend these awareness sessions at her MARVI Markaz. She faced few difficulties in the beginning but with her efforts women started to understand what she is talking about is good for their health and future generations. Ajimat maintained a part of her house like a proper dispensary which looks absolutely shocking when HANDS team arrived there. It was very surprising to see a well organized setup by a woman living in a marginalized area like Gajuabad.

Upon auditing her record it was found that she has sold a good amount of medicines, provided to her under the project and made good profit out of it which is now helping her to run the house expenses. Ajimat is happy for that she is now self employed and earns her living. She is also happy to help her fellow villagers as she wants to see a healthy and educated village in the future. She intend to apply for a PKR 50,000 loan under the project through which she will open a shop for her husband so he will be able to earn more money for their home and bring prosperity to their lives. She also intends to get a drip irrigation system kit through which she can cultivate vegetables at her house and have an additional source of income.

Ajimat is a happy woman now looking forward to a bright future for her family and for her fellow villagers. She has gone through a major change in her life due to HANDS and TRDP intervention in her village.