

GIANT LEAPS

“Success always comes when preparation meets opportunity”

Henry Hartman

There is no single formula of development that will be suitable for diverse communities in the region of GBC. That is why there needs to be multiplicity of approaches for heterogeneous communities and needs in the region. This is a case of a programme through which AKRSP reached to the communities who are usually outside its ambit. When AKRSP announced its Young Professional Development Program (YPDP), Mr. Juma grabbed the opportunity and succeeded to enroll in it through due processes. This training provided him a springboard to take giant leaps in professional path.

Imran Ahmed hails from Union Council Goharabad, in district Diamer. The village has a population of 4573 souls. Most of the inhabitants are dependent on agriculture for their income and livelihood. Imran did his Masters in Business Administration from Federal Urdu University in March 2012. After the completion of his higher studies, he searched for a career oriented organization where he could get maximum skills and enable him to grow professionally. While Imran Ahmed was looking for an opportunity, one of his friends informed him about Young Professional Development Program (YPDP). He applied for the internship and was fortunate to have got selected.

After induction into internship programme, Imran was placed in Monitoring and Evaluation section at AKRSP. Before this, he had not even heard the name of monitoring and evaluation. Narrating his experience he said, “It was my good luck that I had been placed in M&E section”. During his internship he significantly improved his writing and computer skills. Imran learned about development of concept notes, writing a report and collection of data. His work was related to IDPs of Attabad. He himself supervised the data collection from Attabad and prepared a data base. He further learned about Logical Frame Work Analysis (LFA) and research methods. Apart from this Imran gained confidence after availing internship opportunity in AKRSP.

Soon after the completion of internship period in first batch of YPDP, he joined Diamer Poverty Alleviation Programme (DPAP) where he was engaged in proposal writing. In January 2013, a position was advertised in Agri-Business Support Fund (ASF) for Admin and Logistic Officer. Imran applied for the position and got selected on merit. Imran is of the opinion that the reason for getting shortlisted in an initiative of international donor is due to the reason that he had experience certificate of AKRSP. When he appeared in interview, the questions were mostly related to M&E. He was able to confidently answer the question because of his previous



experience at M&E in AKRSP. After interview Imran was not only selected as admin and logistic officer but he was also offered to assist M&E section in the organization.

Now, Imran works as a logistic and admin assistant and assists the M&E section as well. He is encouraged by his supervisors as they are satisfied from his performance. As a result of his good performance he is getting more chances to excel in the same organization.

Imran Ahmed incorporates the skills that he got during internship in AKRSP. This internship opportunity has helped him boasting his confidence and enhancing professional competence. 'Had I not availed this internship' he said, "I would have been at the same position when I just completed my masters or more or less I would have been in an ordinary job". He owes his gratitude to YPDP of EELY programme of AKRSP because it provided him a platform to explore more opportunities in future.