

## Gearing Knowledge into Practice

**“For the last three decades literacy rate has been increasing steadily in GBC. One of the repercussions of this development is the higher number of graduates chasing few jobs available in service sector of local market. In order to get a job in such a competitive market has become more difficult. However, a little exposure to fresh graduates in the working culture proves to be very helpful in gearing their theoretical knowledge into practice. This is a story of a person who qualified for Youth Internship Programme (YIP) of EELY. Upon the completion of internship he was able to secure a position in an NGO.”**



**Figure 1. Muhammad Arif, YIP Beneficiary**

Mohammad Arif son of Ghulam Muhammad hails from village Daghoni in District Ghanche, which is situated approximately 80 kilometers away from Skardu City. The village is comprised of 400 households. Majority of the people earn their livelihood from agriculture.

As a part of family member, Arif also wanted to contribute to the wellbeing of his family and uplift living standards by employing his productive skills. With a degree in Business Management in his hands he decided to get a job in any Government or private institution, which relates to his field of study. Since he was a fresh graduate without any experience, Arif had to face a lot of hurdles in finding a relevant position.

Another major impediment to his professional goals was the lack of information. Due to this Arif could not apply for jobs on time. One day a friend of his informed him about upcoming opportunity of internship in Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) under its EELY project. Arif spared no time to reach AKRSP Regional Office Skardu for information. There he was provided with relevant information and guidelines about the internship program and its processes. Following the guidelines he submitted the required documents to the management staff. Arif succeeded to get internship opportunity in AKRSP Skardu after going through test and interview.



**Figure 2. Distributing Travel Allowances to Participants During a Training Session in CHIP**

knowledge of accounts, administration and finance. This provided him basic understanding to practically apply the theoretical knowledge by means of modern methods and technologies. He also learnt the ethics of office environment which helped him enhance and refine his leadership qualities.



The internship program provided Arif with an opportunity to start his job career with exposure to work and remuneration for his work. It boosted his confidence as he started to feel a productive member of society. As an intern, he gained sufficient

After the completion of internship program, he was hired by a NGO named “*Civil Society for Human and Institutional Development*” (CHIP) in Skardu and was placed in the Accounts and Admin section. Arif still works in this organization. In future he plans to be a part of an International NGO and work for the development of local community of Baltistan. Like many others, Muhammad Arif has also benefitted from the Youth Internship Program. After undergoing internship, Arif has found a key to unlock the door that remained locked for long and also he realize his own potential.