

## Propelling on Professional Path

**“During recent years training of fresh graduates in the transitional period from higher education to professional work has become very important. A graduate at this stage is fully equipped with required repertoire of his field, but lacks practical knowledge about work in an organizational ambiance. Internship experience actually fills in that gap in transitory period by giving graduates praxis and acquainting them with organizational culture. This is a story of a female who availed internship opportunity, and building on this experience she was able to propel herself on professional path.**



**Husna in her current office**

infrastructure connecting Booni to market centers is well developed.

Husna comes from a middle class family. She did her Masters in Economics from University of Peshawar in 2012. With all the seven siblings currently studying, Husna is the only child who is earning an income along with her mother who teaches in a government

Husna Akbar, 24, hails from a small village Booni, located at a distance of 80 kms from Chitral town. Agriculture remains the main source of livelihood of majority in this village despite a rising proportion of non-farm sources in overall household incomes. Recent developmental work has brought about rapid and large-scale improvements in living standard of the people of Booni village. The road



**While doing BCC campaign**

school. Husna was able to secure this job after undertaking a paid internship through the EELY program of AKRSP. Sharing her experience about the internship Husna says: “I was confused about my career path after completion of my Masters Degree and had no idea where to start. A friend of mine then informed me about the EELY internship program. She herself had participated in the internship earlier and motivated me to apply for it”. “This internship” Husna adds, “was the perfect stepping stone that equipped me with a number of new and valuable skills to secure a full-time position in one of the world’s leading NGOs, AKDN.”

In the internship programme Husna was placed in the MER section of AKRSP where she learned basics of Monitoring and Evaluation, and was also involved in monitoring of different activities on field. In addition, the internship also gave her the opportunity to search full-time jobs available at AKRSP, as well as giving her necessary skills to work in a professional environment. Husna would not hesitate in recommending this internship programme to other graduates. “I feel very lucky to be a part of the internship program at AKRSP not only because it helped to enhance my employability, but also because I learned a lot of new transferable skills which will continue to benefit me in the future.”

After the completion of internship Husna applied for the position of Behavior Change Communication Officer in a project of AKRSP. She secured first position in the test which she believes was only possible because of the internship. She joined AKRSP as BCCO in CBSG project and after completing the tenure of the job she got hired as M&E officer in PPAF funded livelihood project of AKRSP. She is content with her current position and credits her success to the opportunities she got from AKRSP.

Husna now plans to pursue further studies in Developmental Economics and is currently awaiting response for her funding applications. She is very optimistic about her future because of the strong skills and sense of work ethics that she has acquired under the professional guidance of AKRSP. Besides working full-time at AKRSP, Husna is also youth green club coordinator of Chitral Heritage and Cultural Protection Society and also the information secretary of Patients’ Welfare Society Booni. Through these platforms, Husna tries to motivate other youth for such internships. Husna’s case is a success story of EELY

program of AKRSP which aims to make the youth of Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral more employable by building their capacities.