

## RIPPLE EFFECT

**Leader is the one who inspires and actively leads the caravan towards its goal. This case is related to an orphan girl who by the dint of her strong will, managed to keep the flare of leadership aglow amidst despite tempests in personal life. Fatima continued to invest in herself in the shape of education. Finally, she got an opportunity to translate her leadership potential into practice by availing a training that enabled her to create ripple effect as well as revivifying dormant institutions in her locality. Now Fatima has become a precious asset of the community as she continues to acquaint the youth with fresh ideas.**

Fatima Nazar is a resident of Warijun Payeen. Her village is situated in a far flung Union Council of Mulkhov in Tehsil Mastuj, Chitral. The total population of UC Mulkhov is 16,875. Being located at the fringes of Chitral district, the people are mostly dependent on the agriculture sector for their livelihood. The agriculture products produced in the region are crops like wheat, maize, beans and vegetables. Owing to the scarcity of water resources, most of the land in the UC is barren.

Fatima is fourth child among her siblings. Her father passed away when she was very young. The family is dependent on the earnings from the cultivable land and fruit trees. After completing her Bachelors Degree, Fatima started teaching in a private college from which she was able to make the both ends meet for her family. Being an active member of society she takes part in different social activities in village.

While teaching in the college she got information about an advertisement circulated by Khow Local Support Organization (KLSO) regarding Young Community Leadership Development Programme (YCLDP) organized by Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) under its Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth (EELY) project. She applied for the said programme and got selected along with 10 other participants from different LSOs of Chitral. She underwent one month extensive training where she enriched her knowledge about social mobilization, participatory development, organizational management and, gender and development. She was one of the active participants of the training sessions. At the end of the training sessions, she was elected as the deputy focal person of Chitral region. Sharing her views about the programme she stated;

***“After completing one month training, my confidence level has dramatically improved and the hesitation in facing people has diminished as we were engaged with different groups and field activities during the training”***

YCLDP proved to be good spring board for her professional career as she was hired by KLSO as Women Social Mobilizer. In consultation with KLSO, she submitted one year social mobilization plan to AKRSP through which she trained 20 (10 young men, 10 young women) as young leaders. They are now engaged in the reactivation of dormant V/WOs, formation of new V/WOs and youth inclusion. These activities would be helpful in revisiting the basic concept of V/WOs and align their activities and leadership with new demands and realities. She, with the support of young leaders, visited 56 organizations including VOs, WOs and Youth Organizations. According to Fatima 15 WOs were dormant but endeavors bore fruit as she

succeeded to induct active managers in three WOs. After a series of dialogues she also formed a new Women Organization with the name Bonziboht. Fatima's tireless mobilization efforts resulted in the formation of another organization - Hone Youth Development Organization (HYDO). Reflecting on her experience she said;

***“Before YCLDP, I had no idea about LSOs and grass root level institutions and their role in development process, but now it is my priority to revitalize the grass root institutions of the area.”***

Reactivations and revitalization of V/WOs play a key role in the development of the society as these are the feeding units of LSOs and enact a crucial role in the new development paradigm. Fatima is working on one year plan with the support of young leaders focusing on reactivation of V/WOs, inclusion of youth, record keeping and increasing the individual and organizational savings. She is a role model for all the members of Young Community Leadership Alumni Network.

Fatima is of the opinion that it is impossible to develop the area without engaging the women folks in the process of decision making. Her dream is to include more women in the development process so that the women of the area can also share responsibilities besides the male segment of the society. In this regard, she is working on a plan for including women segment by establishing more WOs. Fatima is epitome of leadership who creates ripples at the grassroots level.