



**Presentation on Women Development Work in
Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union Ltd
During ICA Housing Seminar on 2nd November 2013,
in Cape Town**



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“A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.”

~Diane Mariechild

Women empowerment is one of the momentous issues of contemporary development policies in developing countries. Since empowerment is considered a multidimensional concept, it is determined by many socio-economic factors and cultural norms.

The term ‘women empowerment’ has become popular in the development field since 1980s. It is vividly recognised that women empowerment is essential for sustainable economic growth and reduction in poverty in developing countries.

WOMEN COOPERATIVE IN PAKISTAN

In our country, the women’s Cooperative societies simply run Industrial Homes, Education Centers or fair Price Shops. The sphere is limited. However, women can form cooperatives for almost any income generating Schemes like poultry farming, textile dyeing and printing, medical stores, garments, workshops, etc. this, in addition, to providing economic relief would also be a great education in communal living as all the members have to work on all aspects of the business, with complete faith and trust in each other.

KARACHI COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED:

Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union Limited is carrying the reputation and creditability of its services for about 63 years .

The Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd, was registered under the West Pakistan Co-operative Societies Act VII of 1925 in early 1950 with the aim of acquiring land from Govt. and other agencies on license or lease and to give Sub-license or sub-lease of the same to Member Societies after developing the land. It also provided and maintained municipal and other services till such time when the same was handed over to local authorities in early 70's.



The entire plan and layout roads, lanes, paths and sites for shopping centers and public amenities were done by K.C.H.S Union. A short list of such work done is as under: -

1.	TOTAL AREA OF THE UNION	1200 ACRES
2.	RESIDENTIAL PLOTS	9300
3.	COMMERCIAL PLOTS	1070
4.	AMENITY PLOTS	73
5.	METALLED ROAD	70 MILES(Approx)
6.	SEWERLINES	80 MILES
7.	LENGTH OF WATER MAINS	80 MILES
8.	PARKS AND OTHER AMENITIES	VARIOUS

WOMEN WING UNDER THE BANNER OF KARACHI COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES

UNION LIMITED:

The women wing was established in 2006 after which the actual start of women work came and lots of things were implemented like inclusion of women in decision making, inclusion of them in cooperative club activities, women were given jobs in HRD department of Karachi cooperative Housing Societies Union Limited, they were allowed to expand their group with the inclusion of other women from urban areas like Hyderabad and Sindh. Women had started arranging the programmes and funfairs under the banner of cooperatives.

FIRST WOMEN WORKSHOP IN COOPERATIVES IN 2007:

In 2007 a work shop on Project planning Management and Cooperatives was organized by the Women's Training Center of the Orangi Plot Project (OPP), and sponsored by the Women's Division of Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union Limited. The workshop was undertaken to educate women and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working with women in methods of organization, supervision, accounting documentation and evaluation of Projects of social welfare and cooperatives for women in poor urban areas(Khatore).



One of the aims of the workshop of the Women's Division elaborated was to bridge the gap between their secretariat and the NGO's working in the areas and Communities. Women realized that there is very little (if at all) contact between the Women's Division and the women at the grass root level for whom, ostensibly, it was created. They rarely leave their offices at the secretariat to venture into the field and so have no way of really knowing what programmes to initiate to provide relief to women in low and middle income areas. It was the NGO's working in the community, experimenting on approaches, failing in some strategies, succeeding in others who are the key to uplift work among women.

If the Women's Division is to help in the economic progress of women then assistance in the formation of cooperatives can be a major break through. For this it is necessary that information regarding the advantages of collective working, the management of financial and administrative matters be disseminated to the NGO's who, in turn, can use this knowledge to plan and manage projects and cooperatives among the women with whom they work.

TRAINING OF WOMEN IN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL OF HYDERABAD(Lower Female Staff) 2012:

The primary lesson learnt from the training is that if the condition of the weak and poor women is to be improved then the NGOs would have to seek out existing enterprises, suggest new one and work in increasing productivity and employment by forming cooperative groups with training, educate them into methods of acquiring funds and supervise them closely.

The training was a step forward in making public the ways and means of improving the economic condition of women thus alleviating some of the oppression endured by them. At the end it was decided that funds would be obtained from the government and other funding agencies if a project or society plans out with a definite goal.



WORKING OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN SINDH(OCT2011) AND ICA EXPO MANCHESTER (OCT 2012)

Historically, the participation of women had been constrained by the lack of access to education, credit, training, market linkages, linkage between researchers, planners, policy makers and the financial sector. The credit union of women of Karachi cooperative Housing Societies Union Limited recognizes that access to credit alone is not the solution to economically empower women funds insufficient to create women entrepreneurs.

60% of rural women are running the cottages industries from their houses they do very intricate work of traditional clothes with their hands and do embroidery and stitch different clothes and sell them in nearby areas to make their living. Atleast group of 10 can make 100 pieces of short cloths with hand embroidery within a month.

The women wing of KCHSU had approached those women and provided them with a platform in urban areas for selling off their handicrafts.



Those handcrafts were purchased by Karachi Cooperative Union and exhibited in ICAexpo in Manchester and had got a good response .In this way the hand work rural women got a boost and they will get lots of opportunities to earn their living. In this way these women would be able to run their own business and could access the urban cities for selling the good and would be able to access the international market in future. It was just a start to expose the urban women work to international market through women wing of Karachi Cooperative Housing societies Union Limited.



CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S DAY ON 8TH MARCH 2012:

The women day was celebrated in Karachi by inviting the achiever women from different fields including cooperative and recognizing their contributions by presenting shields to them by our honorary guest Federal Minister Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan.



The event was organized in the memory of late Benazir Bhutto.

**EXCELLENCE AWARD CEREMONY IN CONNECTION WITH
CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVE IN
GIRLS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL OF HYDERABAD (APRIL-2012):**

Karachi Cooperative Union had celebrated the year 2012 by visiting the Cooperative schools in Hyderabad, the whole team of cooperators including MD Muhammad sharif Bhaiji, Executive Women wing Errum Sharif Bhaiji, Suresh Kumar Professor Zarai University and Ibrahim the member SAGA, incharge of Flood Camp and visited different schools and had also attended award ceremony in girls school of Hyderabad.

The School is run by all female staff. MD had distributed suveniors to the staff in recognition to their achievements in school progress and had given money reward for the maintenance of school building from Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Unions funds.



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COURSE ON TEXTILE WITH VEGETABLE DYE ATTENDED BY A TEAM OF KCHSU IN URBAN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY(MAY 2012):

A course was organized by Association of Textile in Ghoro under the supervision of Mr. Ibrahim an old man had been using the vegetable dye in a most traditional way. The course was attended by KCHSU cooperators in order to mark a difference in year 2012 by introducing the vegetable based dye to urban areas. There were 6 females were also working as staff from nearby village.



C.P BERAR COOPERATIVE COLLEGE AND SCHOOL FOR GIRLS:

With a vision to fulfill the long cherished desire of the dwellers of the vicinity C.P and Berar Cooperative Housing Society had founded an institute for girls namely C.P & Berar College and school for girls had also established its branch with the primary school classes by the name of C.P Star School in .

Objective was to bridge the gap between the formal education system and time-oriented professional expertise. The college was inaugurated in November 2000 with the faculties of Humanities and Commerce no cooperative subject was introduced due to the less interest of the people.

Later in 2003 the college due to some reason had to be shut down. The school education however became functional in March 2001 with the strength of 160 students. School hired all female staff from principal to teacher's faculty only the administration department has 3 males and some lower staff.

Now its been 12 years since the school is working with its uprising image as a cooperative girls school in the area.



LAUNCH OF MONTESSORI IN C.P BERAR COOPERATIVE SCHOOL(FIRST TRUE MONTESSORI IN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY'S SCHOOL IN KARACHI):

In Nov 2012 I joined the school as honorary VP and put a vision of opening of Montessori in the school which was a necessary requirement in the school in order to meet the demand of the C.P Berar area after several meeting with the management committee finally in Jan 2013 the school led the stone of Montessori in order to fulfill the requirement of the residents of C.P Berar. The actual work was started with the feasibility report in December 2012 and in Jan 2013 the paper work was implemented.



The following work was done:

- Curriculum based on Dr.Mari's methodology was developed
- 3 levels ofclasses Level1, Level 2 and Level 3 were introduced for the age group 2.5 to 3.5, 3.5 to 4.5 and 4.5 to 5.5 respectively.
- Course was selected from book shops related to the curriculum
- Montessori Material was purchased according to the age group for teaching based on true methods of Dr.Maria's system of Montessori education.
- Montessori diploma holder teachers were hired
- Classes were designed according to the theme of Montessori in coordination with the curriculum of that age group
- Children time in the school is divided on a time table for English conversation, English language, Sensorial, Exercise of Practical Life, Library corner, arts and outdoor activities

On the day of opening in August 2013 we had 25 students enrolled altogether and after a month the strength increased upto 52 now the Montessori is running with the strength of 52 students in all three classes.

AS rightly said by Dr.Maria:

"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future"

MA AYESHA Memorial Centre (The first and the only centre in cooperatives for special children education and Neurological diseases)

The centre's stone was laid by Mr. Ahmed Abdullah in 1989 under Memon cooperative Housing society, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi in the province of Sindh, Pakistan with the cause to establish a full fledged platform for the training of Special children and handicapped people.

Today Ma Ayesha Memorial Centre is the only comprehensive rehabilitation centre for a wide spectrum of neurological diseases in patients of all ages. All the dedicated staff members include doctors, nutritionist, physiologists, psychiatrists, teachers and administrators are directly involved in providing rehabilitation services that are well qualified and due to their professional expertise and dedication they have earned a very good reputation for the Centre in the city of Karachi, Pakistan.

Since the centre is run on cooperative rules so board of directors and honorary members have put their best efforts to keep it running with limited resources and funds. It is the best available rehabilitation services to the patients suffering from neuromuscular disorders and chronic neurological diseases, specifically to those who cannot afford to pay for these services. The centre's services are comparable to the city's best well equipped centres. The services are available under one roof and are offered to all groups of patients taking into consideration their socioeconomic status.



The centre has the following divisions and facilities being provided by highly qualified professionals:

General Patients and Inhouse Special Children :(Special children of school and all walkin patients of all ages have the facility of following therapies)

- Consultation for neurology, Psychology
- Muscular Dystrophy and Rehabilitation
- Occupational Therapy/Adaptive Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Muscular Therapy
- Hydro Therapy
- Orthotic Braces
- Special Children School

Students of different diseases like MR(Mild Retardation), ADHD,CP(Cerebral Palsy), ASD(Autism Spectrum Disorder, Epilepsy etc. are admitted in the School. Ma Ayesha is pioneers in establishing an Autism Section for the children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism Spectrum Disorder is more common in boys than in girls. The causes of this disorder are unknown so far. So many researches are being conducted throughout the world.

All the students are taught by female teachers only.

I am working as an advisor to the Centre has observed that in cooperatives in Pakistan Housing is the umbrella which has different societies working under it and the above mentioned centre is the only institution of its kind under the cooperative societies of Pakistan which is being run to serve humanity based without focusing on the monetary benefits.

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES UNDER TAKEN BY WOMEN COOPERATORS DURING THE YEAR 2007-2013

1. Handi craft work training programme has just started at Rangoon walla community centre where 20 girls from rural areas are given handicraft training for free of cost at the cost of women cooperative movement.
2. 20 more female gynecologist have been hired in Zubaida's hospital which falls under C.P Berar Cooperative Housing Society.
3. Fresh female graduates have been hired for software developments of newly established software developing company ONTIC TECHNOLOGY located at Kokan Cooperative Housing Society Ltd.
4. Increased hiring of women in Ma Ayesha hospital which is established by one of the director's of KCHSU.
5. Ma Ayesha Hospital as the name implies is dedicated to women here a separate section is established for the training , rehabilitation and growing of special children.

6. Separate female ward established in Hussaini Cooperative Hospital run by our one of the director's of KCHSU.
7. In Orangi Town a fair price shop for basic commodities at a reasonable price was established. Each member contributed Rs. 25.00 per shares, and they are to set up a Fair Price shop which catered to their needs as well as enabled them to make come money. About 25% of the profit retained by the society, the rest equitably distributed among the members who then are free to put if wholly or partly back into the business.
8. Funds have been raised through women NGO's and KCHSU Women Cooperative Society during the month of Ramzan for the hospitals, girls schools and colleges, which is equivalent to Rs.10.0M which which utilized in renovation of C.P Berar School, Dehli Mercantile Hospital.

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES:

NEW PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN:

1. Government has invested 17% of representation of women in Senate, National and provincial assemblies
2. It has given 33% seats reserved for women in local government
3. 10% quota for women in civil services.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION (NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL)

NATIONAL POLICY OF DEVELOPMENT & EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

- Implementation of Federal development schemes/projects/policies.
- Formulation and implementation of Provincial development schemes, projects and programmes on the lines of national/international commitments/policies.
- The National Policy of Development & Empowerment of Women is the major policy guide line for the Provinces for development and empowerment women.

KEY POLICY MEASURE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN:

- Ensuring that government agencies adopt a gender sensitive approach to development in preparing need based, participatory and implementable programmes and projects. Gender sensitization to be institutionalized and integrated into all sectors of development including the private sector.
- Mainstreaming gender issues through integration into all sectors of national development.
- Eliminating all negative social practices.
- Ministry of Women Development is implementing agency at Federal level and has its Provincial units. The NPA unit in Sindh was established in September, 2004 to work for follow up and monitor the implementation and accelerating the pace of implementation.

AREAS OF CONCERN:

- Women and Poverty.
- Education and Training of Women.
- Women and Health.
- Violence against Women.
- Women and the Armed Conflict.
- Women and the Economy.
- Women in Power and Decision Making.
- Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women.
- Human Rights of Women.
- Women and the Media.
- Women and the Environment.
- The Girl-Child.
- Women with Disability.
- WOMEN CENTRES
 - The Women Centre Karachi, a project of the Federal Ministry of Women Development, Government of Pakistan is has been managed in collaboration with the Department of Women Development, Government of Sindh.
 - The objective of the Women Centre is to provide relief to the needy, distressed and destitute women in the shape of legal, medical and counseling support.

THANKING YOU

GOD BLESS YOU

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