



Sustainability Report



A Pathway to Hope

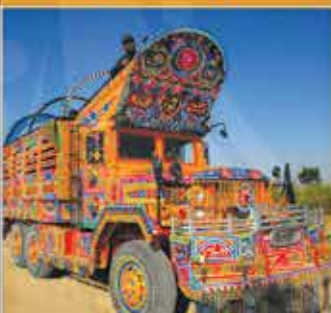


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message by chairman

As Chairman Board of Directors of Thar Foundation, I feel privileged and humbled to see the contribution this nascent organization has made in the lives of the people in a short span of 5 years, two of which were impacted wholly and then partially by the pandemic of COVID-19.

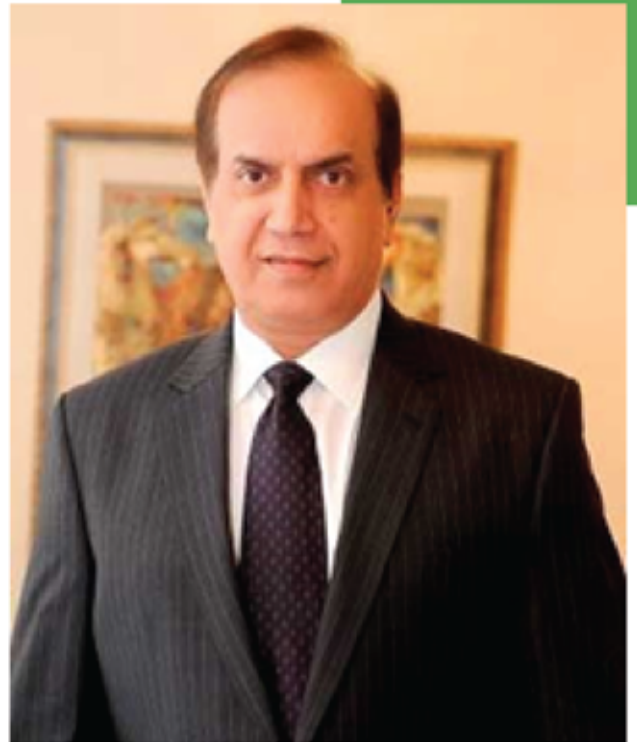
Even now the pandemic is not over but the quick reaction of the Thar Foundation team first to reorient and reposition their own working allowed them to assist the people in their catchment area in not only dealing with the Pandemic and it's fallout but to extend the scope of their work to include the pandemics response.

I commend the entire Thar Foundation team for the resilience and professional competence displayed. Their outreach has ensured that the interventions in the education, health and livelihood sectors continue the resumption trajectory towards normalcy.

Thar Foundation along with the partners working in the Taluka of Islamkot, are mindful of their SDG targets and are targeting their activities by enabling the people through assistance and capacity building and hence, it made a huge difference.

Together, they will truly change Pakistan...for the better.
I wish the Foundation all the best.

Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh
Chairman, Board of Directors



message by chief executive officer

Thar Foundation was established with the mission of unlocking human potential for the inhabitants of the Tharparkar district and providing a helping hand towards sustaining the communities where we live and do business. Through our structured initiatives, we are striving to ensure that we put individuals and communities of Thar Block II on the path to self-sufficiency and growth.

Each day we come to work, determined to do better. Our core values are at the heart of our ethos at Thar Foundation and reflect in all our projects and initiatives, and I am proud to present to you our citizenship report which will take you through our progress and impact over the years.

In a very short period, Thar Foundation which is just a five-year-old organization has made its presence within the local communities in and around Thar Block II known. The Foundation has aligned its interventions with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework and pledges to pursue the selected SDGs through various interventions which will ensure that Islamkot tehsil becomes SDG compliant area by 2030.

The citizenship report provides a closer look at how the community has not just accepted but evolved and aligned itself with the initiatives taken by Thar Foundation for a progressive and prosperous community which will set a new precedent for the entire region. The people of Thar are the best judges of our impact, and you will read about their awe-aspiring stories in the pages to follow.

I am thankful to the Government of Sindh and all its bodies for their continuous support and guidance. My gratitude extends to the Chairman of our board, our partners, donors, volunteers, and advocates for extending great support in executing various projects throughout our journey so far.

I would like to acknowledge each member of the Thar Foundation team whose contribution and passion have evolved this organization into a movement of positive change.

Lastly, I would like to extend my gratitude to the communities of Thar Block II for placing their trust in us; we will continue to do everything we can to remain worthy of this trust. Thank you for being on this journey with Thar Foundation.

Amir Iqbal
Chief Executive Officer
SECMC and Thar Foundation



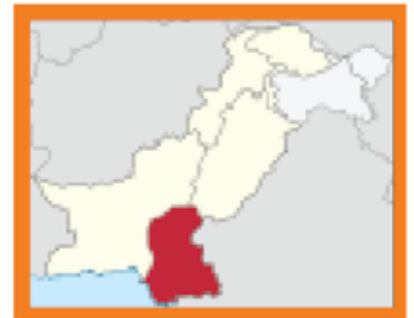
target area: taluka islamkot, district tharparkar

demography

The Tharparkar District is spread over 19,638 km² or 1,916,410 hectares and is situated on coordinates 24°44'24"N, 69°48'0"E in the desert area of Sindh, Pakistan. The district is bound on the north by Mirpurkhas and Umerkot Districts, on the south by the Rann of Kutch, on the East by Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of India, and on the West by Badin District.

The census of 2017 has revealed a fresh picture of the district where the population has increased from 9,14,291 (1998) to 16,49,661 with a 3.15 annual growth rate.

The urban population has doubled since 2000, as new urban centres are developing with an annual growth rate of 5.68. The population density/sq. km has increased from 47 persons (1998) to 84 persons (census - 2017) in the district.



census – 2017: tharparkar district



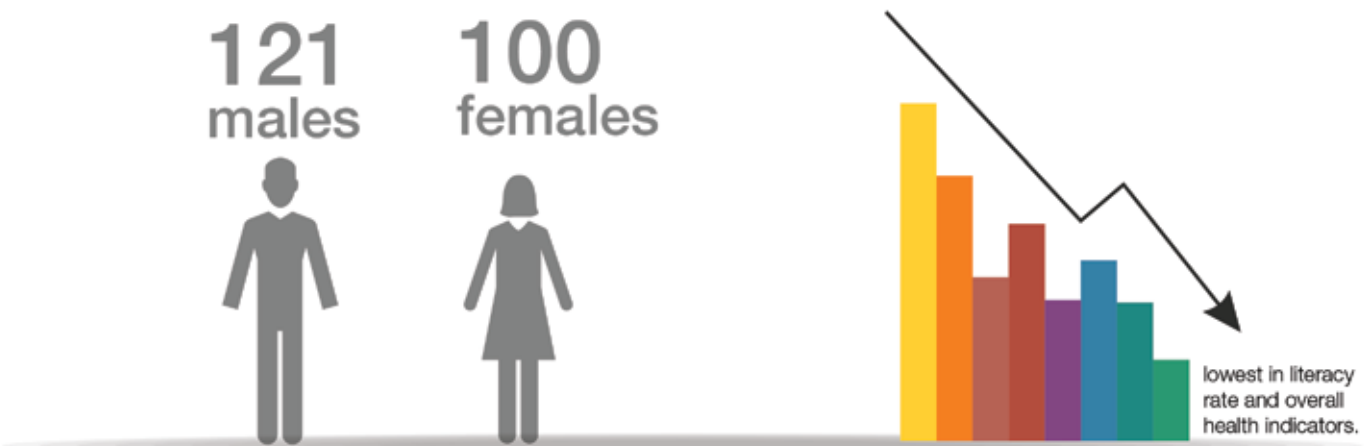
Taluka	UCs (No.)	Population	Households (HHs)
Mithi Rural Urban	9	219, 071 160, 863 58, 208	45, 214 32, 878 12, 336
Diplo Rural Urban	7	147, 978 135, 259 12, 719	32, 721 29, 933 2, 788
Kaloi Rural Urban	5	118, 030 118, 030 0	25, 098 25, 098 0
Chachro Rural Urban	11	351, 263 327, 927 23, 336	54, 734 50, 363 4, 371
Dahli Rural Urban	10	308, 487 301, 011 7, 476	42, 418 41, 425 993
Islamkot Rural Urban	10	244, 662 226, 138 18, 525	50, 012 45, 989 4, 023
Nagarparkar Rural Urban	12	260, 170 248, 362 11, 808	51, 428 49, 005 2, 423
Tharparkar District Rural Urban	64	1, 649, 661 1, 517, 590 132, 171	301, 625 274, 691 26, 934

tharparkar on the Pakistan human development index (hdi)



Currently, Tharparkar ranks 109th out of 114 districts in Pakistan, and the lowest of the 29 districts is in the province of Sindh, on the Human Development Index with approximately 87% of the population suffering from multi-dimensional poverty. Moreover, the district also ranks the lowest in literacy rate and overall health indicators.

The average household size is 5.5 and the gender ratio is 121 males to 100 females. Housing and utility services indicators are modest. Less than 10% of housing are built on concrete foundation and have access to electricity while only less than 3% have piped water. The talukas of Chhachhro and Dahli host the largest number of people and accounts for 40% of the total district population.



advent of thar foundation

With Pakistan realizing the importance of utilizing the enormous coal deposits in Tharparkar, different companies were given a lease to extract coal and generate electricity in the area through open-pit mines and mine-mouth power plants, respectively.

Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC), a joint venture between Government of Sindh, Engro Corporation, and other private sector stakeholders, was granted a lease of Thar Coal Block II for 30 years to extract coal. By far the largest public-private partnership project, the huge scale of the mining and subsequent power generation projects entailed creation of countless skills-based and unskilled jobs for labour as well as professionals in different Block II projects. The project ensured the influx of many people looking for jobs to come and settle in Thar, even if it is on temporary basis.



The Thar Coal Project meant a significant change in the sociocultural and economic landscape of the area.

Keeping this in view, the Thar Foundation was established as a Section 42 company, registered under the Societies Act 2017. The purpose of the Foundation is to cater for the betterment of the people of Tharparkar through graduated and sustainable interventions in the fields of healthcare, education, livelihood, community infrastructure, gender equality, clean drinking water & sanitation services, and disaster management.

Thar Foundation believes in striving to improve the lives of thousands of individuals living in Tharparkar. The non-profit organization is the catalyst of human development and retains individuals and issues at the heart of its philosophy of executing meaningful initiatives and projects for social development.





vision

Thar Foundation has been established as a Section 42 company under the Companies Act, 2017 to improve the quality of life for the people of Tharparkar through sustainable development initiatives.



mission

Thar Foundation aims to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework and develop Islamkot into a model tehsil in Pakistan.



themes

The foundation envisions implementing environment-friendly and socially responsible programs around these themes:



Health



Education



Water & Infrastructure



Livelihood and Business Development



Disaster Preparedness and Management



Social, Cultural & Heritage reservation and Promotion

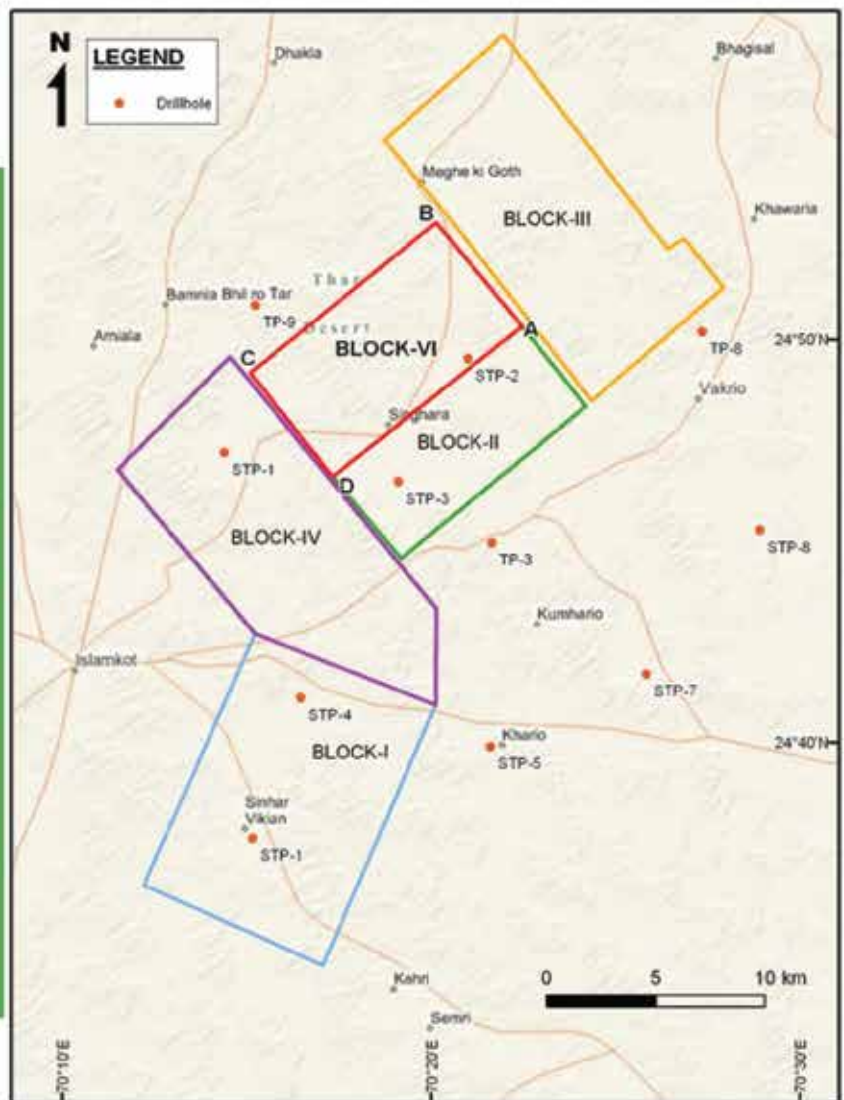


the promise of thar

Vast deposits of coal were discovered in Thar in the early 1990's and some attempts were made towards underground gasification project . The people of Thar had high hopes of benefiting from the potential economic activity happening in the heart of desert.

It was not until the decision of the Government of Sindh (GoS) to go ahead with the decision for open pit mining in Block II of the designated coal blocks that the people of Thar, and especially Islamkot saw a transformational change in their lives.

owning the slogan of
'thar badley ga Pakistan'
(thar will change Pakistan)



Block II -- allocated to Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) -- not only had the first mover advantage of commencing business in this part of the district, but also wore the mantle of responsibility to be in a holistic model of development by going beyond the usual mandate of commercial profitability.



the roadmap

Although, the Thar coal deposits had been discovered in the 90's and attempts had been made to extract it. However, it was in the in mid 2000s that the decision to develop the coal reserves was taken by the Government of Sindh and several actors:





the enablers

Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) was formed as a joint venture between Government of Sindh (GoS), Engro Energy Limited and its partners namely: Thal Limited (House of Habib), Habib Bank Limited (HBL), Hub Power Company (HUBCO), China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC).

Whereas Houlinhe Open Pit Coal Mine, a subsidiary of SPI (State Power International) Mengdoga (SPIM), formerly CPIM joined the SECMC board as a strategic investor with preference shares' subscription.

the innovations

The magnitude of the operation required the fast-tracking of many interventions, the first of which was a land acquisition, and resettlement of the communities who would be displaced by the mining operations.

For the first time in Pakistan, a mix of monetary compensation, and resettlement models were put in place, which required equal focus on human development as on the brick and mortar-based physical interventions.

Due to its promise and potential, Thar as a region was under spotlight .

It was evident that the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Corporate Shared Value (CSV) models could not be implemented in their true form as both kicked in not only after operationalizing the business but the percentage to be channelled in these activities is from profit.

Mega energy projects have a long gestation period. It was apparent that with the modern means of communications making inroads deep into the desert, the uplift of the people of Thar, especially those directly being impacted by the mining operations as well as those dwelling in the periphery was an imperative that had to be embedded with the commercial exploitation of resources buried under their land.



in pursuit of sustainable development goals

With such a large-scale project being implemented in the Tharparkar, the Government of Sindh (GoS), the majority shareholder, moved beyond just having a CSR model implemented – by creating the Thar Foundation to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it also gave Pakistan a model CSR strategy which many others would replicate in different areas.

It was declared that the Taluka of Islamkot—where all the Thar coal blocks are located—would be known as Pakistan’s first SDGs aligned sub-district.

While Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) as a corporate entity was the first to start operations there, the mandate of Thar Foundation was expanded beyond just one to encompass all the companies that would function here.

All their CSR funds as well as the human development interventions by the Government of Sindh are carried out under the umbrella of Thar Foundation. Thus, the non-profit organization was assigned a dual role of undertaking interventions that would ensure the SDG compliances be fulfilled in the Islamkot Taluka in particular.



The Foundation undertook the welfare and social upliftment of Tharparkar, in general, through support in health, education and livelihood, as well as preservation of its social cultural and historical heritage. The net also extended to providing emergency relief, and disaster preparedness and response.

baseline survey – islamkot taluka

In order to develop strategies and design schemes to implement SDGs, a baseline in Islamkot taluka was conducted by Thar Foundation. The detailed survey of Islamkot taluka accounted for many small hamlets found in the area. Hence, as against normal sample-based surveys, this survey captured 100% households as the data gathered played significant part for the development and planning in Islamkot taluka for five to ten years.

In 10 union councils, approximately 53,000 households in 375 villages were covered and renowned economist and development experts Dr. Kaiser Bengali and Dr. Mahapara were the technical advisers on the data analysis of the survey.



filling in the gaps

The baseline survey as well as the needs assessment clearly indicated the massive gaps in education, health, and livelihood opportunities. The coverage had to extend beyond the people directly connected with the mining operations as the catchment area extended beyond the villages earmarked for resettlement.

prioritised SDGs

The assessments led to prioritizing primary SDGs which were more relevant to Tharparkar in general and Islamkot in particular. These included SDGs 2-9, and 11-15.





While specific SDGs were adopted to meet the objectives to improve the HDI indicators, interestingly, the path to meeting them streams right into the SDG 17, which calls to 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.'

Instead of re-inventing the wheel, a process of partnerships with organizations and individuals already armed with the relevant expertise was initiated to put in place health and education infrastructure as well as skills development for the people of Thar.

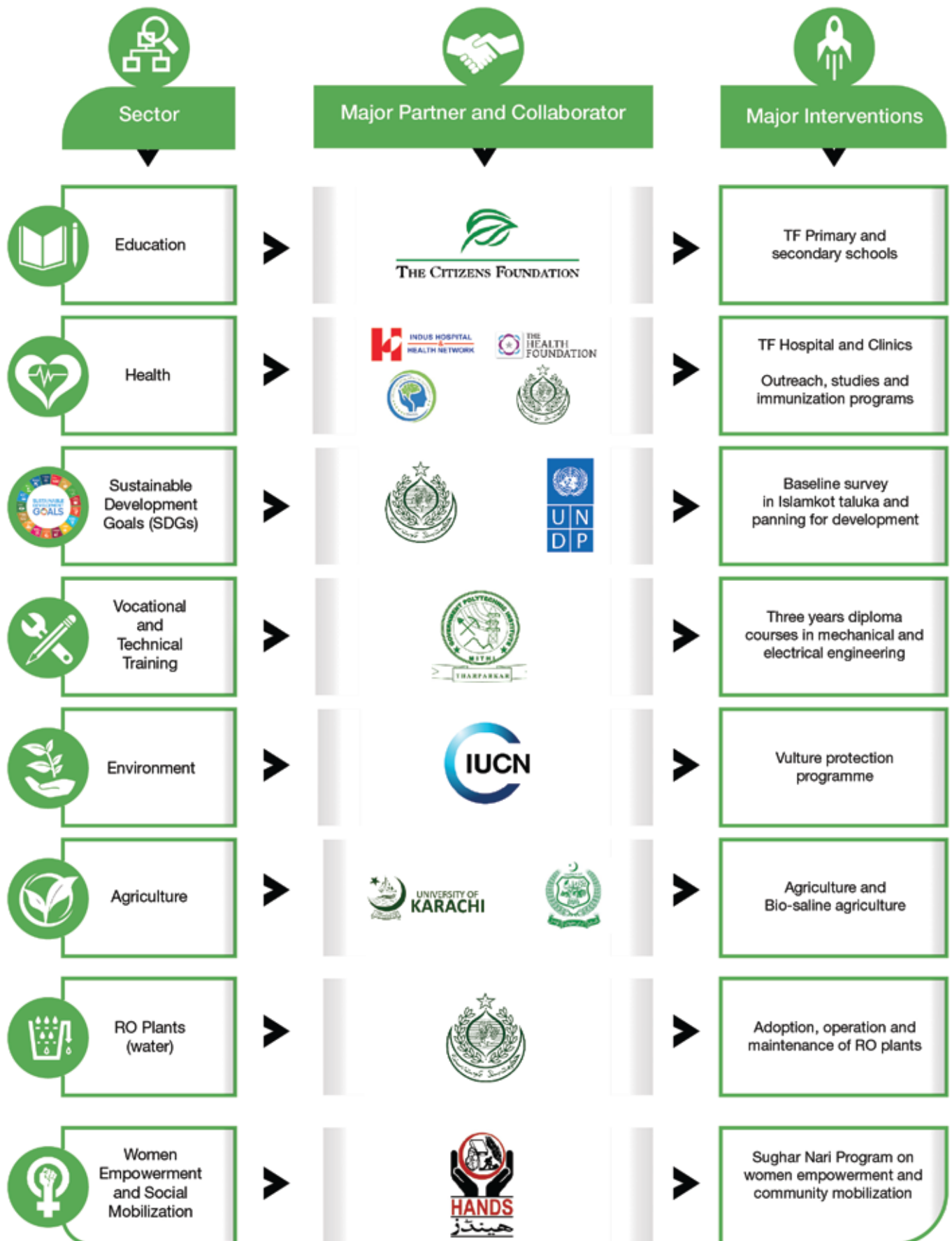
The policy of giving preference to the people of Thar in employment opportunities within the operations meant there also had to be an institutional build up for skill development and enhancement.





strategic partners and collaborators

Thar Foundations works and collaborates with strategic partners in private and public sectors. Over the period of five years, Foundation has signed a few memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with credible national and international organizations in the fields of education, health, vocational and technical training, environment, agriculture, water and infrastructure.





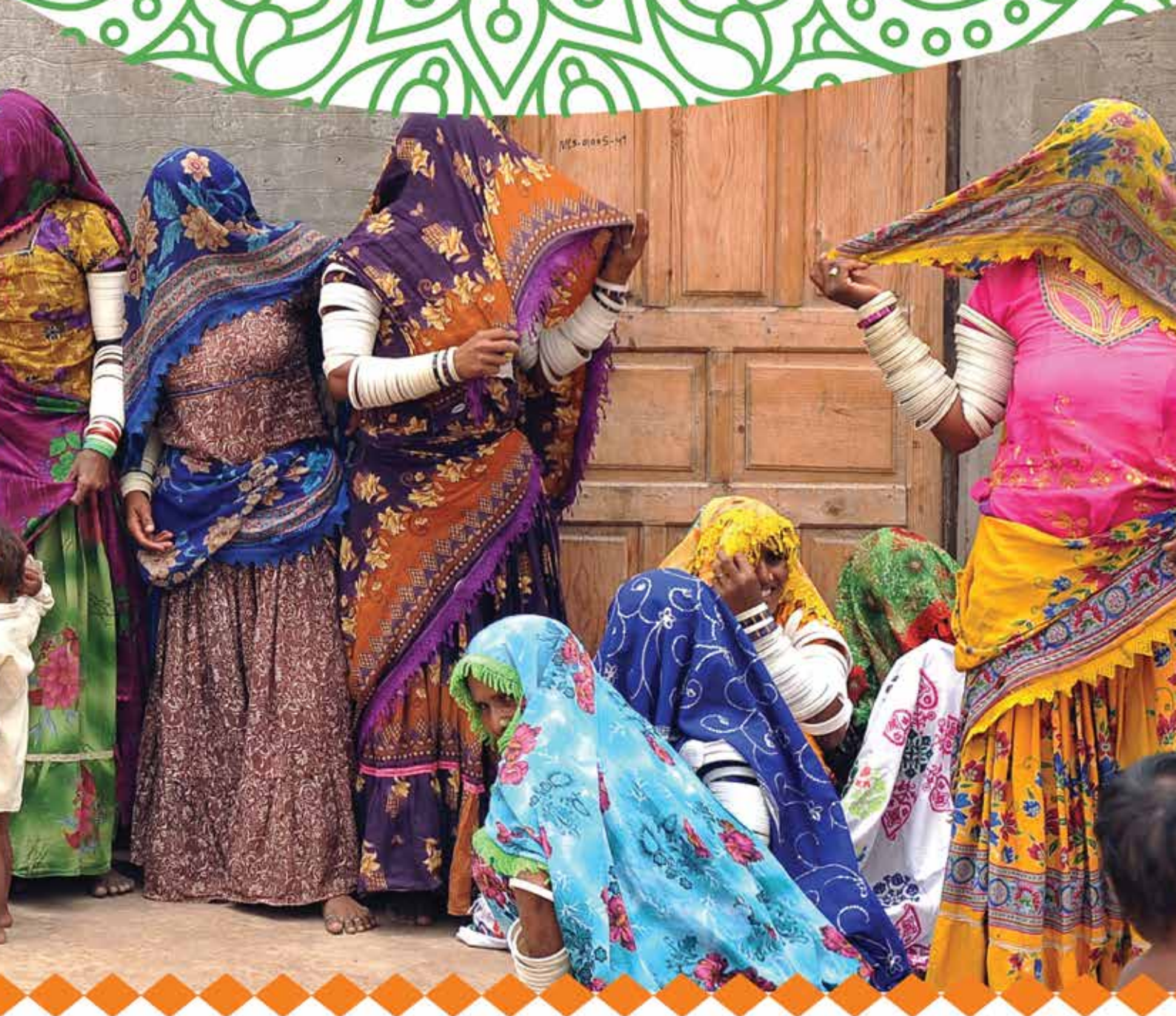
the early years

The years 2018-2019 saw a flurry of activities on several fronts. These included the work at the Resettlement village of New Senhri Dars which traversed the entire curve of negotiations, to agreements, allocations, planning the village sectors, and putting in place the promised facilities.

While also focusing on placing services like clean drinking water, schools, markets, recreational facilities, prayer places and community centres and the settlement of the communities.

covid-19 response

All of 2020 and most of 2021 saw a major disruption in operations as well as interventions due to Covid-19 Pandemic. The year 2020 remained a mix of challenges and trying times in terms of coping with the deadly pandemic of COVID-19, rain-flood emergencies and providing relief services, conducting comprehensive socio-economic survey in the entire Islamkot taluka and maintaining program operations.



Just in the middle of the first quarter of the year the routine operation was however, halted and work from home (WFH) was initiated in the wake of COVID -19. Following the SOPs, Thar Foundation office was temporarily shifted to Thar Lodge Islamkot to provide relief to poor families who had lost their livelihood due to lockdown.

COVID-19 Rescue Center was established at Thar Foundation Hospital Islamkot to provide immediate medical services to virus victims. A help desk mechanized to conduct antibody and antigen tests of community and staff.

In collaboration with HANDS sessions on COVID-19, SOPs conducted with 1,437 women under Sughar Nari Initiative in project area villages. Various studies were conducted, including training programs organized for health service providers and teachers.

The Foundation with the local District Administration also facilitated the vaccination drive in Thar Block II which enabled the region to become one of the highest in terms of its vaccination rate from all over Pakistan.





continuous performance

As life returned to normal in the beginning of 2021, services including routine OPD started at all Thar Foundation health facilities. The health team also carried out various medical camps and awareness sessions especially for those related to mental health and suicide prevention. Thar Foundation hospitals and clinics were also functionalized beyond the emergency and pandemic services.

The Thar Foundation schools also began their enrollment for new academic year and made up for the lost time. Similarly, schools supported by Thar Foundation had partnerships with third parties and organized various activities.

Various VIP schemes were completed in Block-II villages of Mansingh Bhil and Seengario and SME grants were also provided to identified beneficiaries to improve their means of livelihood.

A household survey in Thario Halepota village was conducted regarding shifting of the village and the annual compensation cheques of PKR 100,000 were given to 176 families in New Senhri Dars village.

looking back at the year

Social sector innovations accelerated the journey to the achievement of the SDG goals. The Foundation undertook various initiatives as affirmative action of empowering women to bridge the gender gap. The educational figures remained envy of many other districts, as the performance of the students in curricular along with the extracurricular activities reached new heights. The grants have played a transformational role in the lives of the beneficiaries who are now economically stable. On the health front, the nutrition, maternal and neonatal figures are all moving towards the upwards trajectory.

The district is dotted with role models whose success stories are inspirational as they are aspirational. They spur others within their communities to lift themselves out of poverty and ignorance and embrace the change that the industrial development in their midst is triggering.

Let's read about some of the heroes of Thar who took upon themselves to improve their own and their family's future. Enable and empowered by Thar Foundation, these everyday heroes are an inspiration to us all.



cameos of
success
and
confidence

.....

redefining
life in
tharparkar





naseeba

not a 'no one can do' person



The cultural role society assigns women turns them into 'doers.' If something can be fixed, they will fix it. This is the indomitable spirit that hardly ever lets her say 'no can do' unless something is irredeemable. The Reverse Osmosis plants had, for all accounts, slid into the category of the irredeemable. Until TF/SECMC decided to 'adopt' the ones falling within Block II, most were handed over to women to manage and operate after the requisite training.

Naseebo, a resident of Islamkot had an unemployed husband and four children to bring up. The only way of getting by was to either sell off heads from their livestock periodically, or through stitching clothes.

When she got the opportunity to become an RO plant operator, who would be managing the plants far from Islamkot city, but would be provided transportation by the company, she readily agreed to better her family's circumstances and get out of the vice of loans.

She has studied till the eighth grade and was quick to pick up the technical understanding of running the RO Plant. Now, not only is she earning a fair wage, but is able to send her boys to school, ensuring a better future for herself and her family.



hemi

enabled and empowered



When you talk to Hemi from Tharyo Halepota village, sitting comfortably in her chaunra, the Thari thatched abode, in the midst of family, she proudly points to the goats in the courtyard which have multiplied many times since she was assessed as a deserving recipient of cash or asset grants by the Thar Foundation because of her extreme poverty. It is only when she gets up and limps forward to pet the goats that you realize her very physical challenge, which had earlier pushed her to the fringe of deprivation.

Now she rears them, and after they are of the appropriate age, sells the male goats for anything between PKR 8,000-15,000 each. Female goats are sold only in an emergency. With the cash, she purchases commodities like grams, sugar, fodder etc. Now, the family also has fresh milk for tea, lassi and cheese and not only has this helped raise their nutrition status, it has also ended the need for her to ask relatives and neighbours for these commodities, allowing her to maintain her dignity.

She proudly says that she has also now put her sons in school, she has tripled her assets to 17 goats, of which one died. She is proud of her achievement and revels in the look of admiration that has replaced pity, in the eyes of her clan. Within her society, this has been her journey to social upward mobility from a poor handicapped woman to an asset owner whose disability is a secondary definition of her personality.



dhano bheel sounds of silence



Deaf and mute, but undeterred, Dhano Bheel from the village Mansingh Bheel was also assessed as an eligible recipient of a grant. As a landless worker, he had learned driving during the seasonal migration that most people of Thar experience when they go to the ‘barrage’ (irrigated) areas during harvest times. He learned driving on a tractor and through the grant, he bought himself a rickshaw, which he plies from his village to Islamkot city, where the straight road leads.

He sticks to this route because without being able to talk, he can easily drive on it. Elsewhere, he would need assistance to be able to ask where the passengers needed to go, which is not possible for him.

He aspired to be a dump truck driver at SECMC, but that remains a dream until he can be evaluated whether his hearing loss can be reversed. Meanwhile, he is happy to be making Rs. 200-400 per trip to Islamkot several times a day and taking care of his wife and little daughter without anyone else’s assistance now, and actually aspires to drive a bigger vehicle to earn more.



singhari

nothing succeeds like success



Singhari from the village of Jeondo Dars personifies this adage through her progress up the economic and social ladder in the short space of four years. With the strength of her spirit, she single-handedly knocked down many stereotypes and myths prevalent about women in general, and women of Thar in particular. She not only became a role model in her own community but opened the eyes of the world to the possibilities of what a woman can do if she is allowed to break the shackles of gender stereotypes.

She also shattered the myth of a woman's physical weakness. A woman who could walk for miles in harsh weather, be it a woodcutter and carry the stacks home for use as fuel, tend livestock, carry bushels of fodder, work in fields, besides being solely responsible for all household chores and child rearing. She still was surely up to do 'hard' or 'difficult' task by any standards; that of being a first ever dump truck driver in an open pit coal mine anywhere in the world!

That pride shines through her eyes and in her demeanour as she proudly points to the signs of prosperity around her spacious home with a boundary wall and separate quarters for family members in the Jeando Dars village.

pride and satisfaction of seeing all her children becoming educated in the Thar Foundation Schools. One of her daughters is the first girl from her village who has now reached the secondary education level while her 19-year-old daughter Kanta is working as a Reverse Osmosis plant operator.

Showing not just a brave spirit to take on something no one had done before, she has also shown great foresight by investing her earnings in a plot of land in the city of Islamkot where she is building a comfortable, 'modern' house with all amenities. Education, income and ownership of one's own 'pacca' (constructed) home are seen as the sure sign of social upward mobility, and in those terms, Singharee has arrived!

dr. shahida morio a healing hand



Imagine Thar becoming a symbol of neonatal death nationally. Imagine the ignominy of mothers dying in childbirth because even the most basic medical facilities are not available or accessible, not even a Basic Health Unit. Imagine living in a far-off union council of Gorano and seeing your child waste away due to malnutrition because of lack of diet or lack of appropriate diet needed for healthy growth.

Fast forward to 2022, when Dr. Shahida - who belongs to Larkana - proudly sits in her clinic in Gorano saying there have been ZERO paediatric or maternal deaths since the clinic was set up by the Thar Foundation.

This is where she battles medical ailments with her professional expertise, and social ones, like consanguineous marriages leading to abnormalities through counselling and mentoring. Where she breaks taboos like making men undergo tests and giving them ovulation counselling when a woman comes to her for being childless for many years. Where mothers are provided World Health Organisation (WHO) approved nutrition packs for themselves and their low-birth-weight babies who are regularly monitored until they have stabilised.

The TF Clinic in Goranno has wrought a mini revolution in the hitherto deprived area of Gorano. Now, there is a functional Outpatients Department five days a week that sees over 100 patients daily. It has an ultrasound facility and a referral opportunity to a tertiary care in case of need, though Dr. Shahida recommends making available a Maternal Care Hospital in this UC with the availability of 24-hour service, because already she is handling 40-50 deliveries per month.

People like Dr. Shahida are the harbingers of change in Thar, which is fast shedding the tag of death, despondency, and deprivation as far as health facilities in remote areas is concerned.



abdul salam samoon

walking tall



Imagine the shimmering heat of the desert, the thorny bushes and the swirls of dust surrounding you, posing a deterrent to walking. Thar may be a green desert, but nature reminds one of its harsh sides too. To see a lone young lad just walking for miles from his Kunbhario village, in search for something that should have been provided to him near his home.

At that time, just 10 or 11 years old, he was fired with the passion of going to school, which was not something anyone else from his family or village had done as most were cattle herders. The Government school was a disappointment because of the teacher who remained absent for months. When the Thar Foundation opened its school at Jeando Dars, he decided to walk the distance just to be able to make his dream of getting an education come true.

His drive and dedication is also acknowledged by his Principal who said he was a good student, and was doing well in school. After finishing primary education, he is now enrolled at the Jewan Das campus and is sure that his long walk is a walk towards enlightenment and empowerment. He serves as a beacon to other families in the village and wants to see other children also join school so they can also lead a better life.



sunil

triggering social change



Son of a clerk, Sunil from Hemo Suthar village was facing an opportunity roadblock. He could not see himself going ahead academically after doing his intermediate and was lacking direction until he came to know about the Saylani Welfare Trust internship opportunity through Thar Foundation.

He applied and received the scholarship to be selected for the two-year course which he himself says was transformational. Besides learning IT skills, the mentorship, the polishing of English language and personal grooming changed him completely into a confident young man who was proficient in Fiverr, web and mobile applications.

He was now able to provide a comfortable life to his parents in their own house and get his brothers educated. He aspires to further his learning in the IT field for backend applications. He is an inspiration to his family and other community members and counsels them not to hanker after jobs and they can always become self-sufficient through IT entrepreneurship, like he has, as he is now a member of iSkillers institute where other aspiring youth of Thar are receiving IT training.



sabir realizing potential



Primary educated Sabir from village Saleh Janjhi took to economic empowerment as a natural. When SECMC employed women as dump truck drivers, she won the contract to provide them with hot, healthy meals on daily basis, and turned her neat household into a running kitchen.

When COVID-19 disruption occurred, she turned her attention to gaining additional skills and underwent training as a Lady Health Worker and is now earning PKR 25,000 per month while working for HANDS.

She is a full contributor to the prosperity of her household and is proof of an enterprising spirit that allows one to diversify and explore the full potential of doing and excelling at different skills.



duppta setting the example



Sometimes one does not recognize an individual's own potential; until an opportunity presents itself! For Duppta, belonging to the Thari Waley Goth, when opportunity presented itself, she grasped it with both hands and not only realized her own potential to deliver at a professional level, she showed her community members of the strong stuff she was made of!

Mother of five, she was a teacher in a private school when she received a contract of stitching school uniforms from SECMC which she delivered on. The prosperity broadened her vision and emboldened her to aspire to better things and she set to work convincing her husband who was opposed to her working at the school.

Once the initial hurdle was crossed, she trained as a Lady Health Worker through a 15-month course and went from village to village to carry out the Covid-19 vaccination and anti-polio drive, and with the Covid allowance of PKR 17,000 added on top of her salary of PKR 25,000 is seen as a symbol of success by her community members.



lakho

power of resilience



Sometimes life deals a tough hand. Like it did to Lakho of Bitra village. Before the initiation of the coal project in Block II, he used to be one of the seasonal migrant labourers who used to go to the 'barrage' or irrigated areas of Sindh, Pir jo Goth to be specific, to earn his living as a farm worker. When the coal project offered jobs to the people of Thar, he was inducted in SECMC. Unfortunately, he suffered from a spinal injury when a vehicle hit his motorcycle, was incapacitated and had to be hospitalized.

He recovered his mobility but was no longer able to hold on to his job which required a different level of fitness from him. The recovery process was long and arduous, and expensive, and he got by through selling off goats from his herd. However, then he received a grant from TF to set up a type of puncture/repair shop which he did right before the entrance of SECMC, where a maximum number of vehicles visit to drop off and pick up the labour.

Now, he aspires of upscaling his work through a modern machine, which would work better if there was an electricity connection, but he is looking into the options of running it through solar panels so he can service a greater number of vehicles than he can at present and enhance his earnings.



herchand a proponent of education



Mansingh bheel has a small thatch structure where Harchand, a schoolteacher with NCHD used to teach children of his village. A forward-thinking man, he knew that education was the key that could open doors for his people.

He encouraged his daughter Asia to study and was the wind beneath her wings when she showed an interest in playing football and broke through cultural taboos by letting her go to school accompanied by boys at the New Senhri Dars school set up by TF and enrol in the football team when Diya Academy started coaching.

He is proud of the fact that she is the first girl who has reached secondary classes and aspires to become a doctor. His wife, Pathani, whom the daughter is motivating to also learn reading and writing, now works as an RO operator.

The family's vision for themselves as well as their community can be gauged from the fact that when the TF team was conducting a survey for the Village Improvement Programme, their only demand was for a good school for their children. They did not ask for any other amenities or facilities.



jamna

kicking the ball into the goal

This young girl from Abun jo Tar village literally took the ball of opportunity and ran with it... all the way to China! Just a few years ago, no one could have imagined that a young girl from an obscure village, without much formal education, would be wrestling the opportunities presented to her by Thar Foundation.

She not only bridged the gap in her education, but also proved a natural at sports, especially football, which was included in the extracurricular activities at the Thar Foundation school she had joined. Taking a cue from SDG 17, TF forged collaborations and partnerships with organizations that specialize in relevant fields.

It is amazing how removing cultural and financial hurdles from a girls' path allows her to reach her full potential. Not only did Jamna become a part of the mixed team with the under-12 boys, but she also participated in the under-16 tournaments at the Inter-District level, something that was unthinkable just a few years ago.

The interest, ability and talent among students, including girls like Jamna prompted TF to tie up with the Diya Academy from Karachi which provided training to the girls and honed their skills to an extent that Jamna really found her wings and went all the way to China to play football.

This was a huge leap of faith for her, her family and Thar Foundation because no one would have thought of a school girl from a remote village in Tharparkar to travel even out of town without parental supervision and now she has gained so much confidence that she helps in coaching her school team.



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