

## Society for Human and Environmental Development (SHED)

### Livelihoods Opportunities Ensured through Technical Training on Solar System in Remote Village of District Torghar

#### *“A Case Study of Rizwan Ullah Shah”*



Rizwan Ullah after availing the training established his set up in a shop owned by a community member in the village. He provides solar system trouble shooting services to local community and earn his livelihoods.

The project titled *“To improve socio-economic life of poor and vulnerable population living in remote and underserved areas of Torghar district through provision of solar panels”* emerged as a financial humanitarian contribution of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) through its implementing partner “Society for Human and Environmental Development (SHED)”. Addressing the power needs of the community in area where inhabitants are still deprived of the

power facility which further contributes to hamper in the schooling and studies of the school going boys and girls and other dwellers remained a challenge for the implementing

partner (SHED). In order to identify a potential village/area for the provision of solar systems at households level, the project team assessed the village namely Bilbori Umar Said on the basis that the village does not have the same facility, private micro hydel services are not affordable, where traditional ways of lightning still prevail, no chances in the near future to have electricity, use kerosene oil or cell emergency lights.

Village Bilbori Umar Said is situated in district Torghar comprising of 48 households where poverty prevails and lacks power facility due to which numerous problems are faced by the school going children in preparation themselves for exams at night time and completing homework assignments in time. On the other hand the already private owned available micro hydel station is beyond the community affordability level. The financial limitations of the households have deprived them from the power

facilities inside their houses. The village inhabitants therefore used kerosene lamps to meet their light needs.

SHED selected the village as the most appropriate village for the installation and provision of solar systems while due to lack of economic opportunities capacity building trainings as a sub component was a special focus to economically support the community and have the opportunity of self-employment. The project significantly contributed in providing and installing 30 solar systems to the most deserving vulnerable households that included widows, low income households heads, orphans, PWDs, elderly households heads for the purpose to address the needs and ensure the best utilization of the financial resources in the area for which the project was designed.

The provision of solar systems at households' level indeed eased the sufferings, facilitated and encouraged the school going boys and girls to get education friendly environment. On the other side the project had the provision to train 10 persons from the community who could provide services in trouble shooting and earn for the livelihood of the family. A total of 10 community members were provided 10 days training on maintenance and repairing of the solar systems on the basis of criterion that included age, willingness to avail training, commitment to further utilize the skills in the community and expansion with the passage of time.

The achievement and impact of the training programme can be judged from the success of a community member who availed training and is now well versant with the skills of repairing solar systems installed at homes in the village.



**Figure 1** Rizwan Ullah is committed to be the owner of his own shop in the near future and to become mainstay of his family members

Rizwan Ullah Shah a 24 years old community member of the village with a family comprising of 08 members was engaged in agriculture on small holdings which could not meet the livelihood needs of the family. Rizwan who has studied up to matric level keenly desired to avail the training and further utilization of the skills in the village told that " it was a great opportunity for me because I did not have any other source of employment due to low education and opted for training as potential source of financial survival for the dependents of family."

While narrating the story he shared that he has provided services to the households in repairing their solar systems by charging a nominal

compensation of rupees 50. This has enabled the community to get the services at affordable rates at their steps while much economical for them to hire the mechanic from outside who charges enough for the services. Rizwan while describing his future plan shared that currently he sits in a shop owned by a community member in the village and has procured the items used in solar systems. Currently I am earning 2000 to 2500 per month through my services in the residing village and the hamlets adjacent to the village where community members have installed solar systems at their own cost. Soon after

accumulating the resources I have planned to establish my own shop where along with services provision, other items used in solar systems would be kept to help the community in resolving the technical faults and enhance my financial resources.

Rizwan in his comments highlighted that it was a blessing for me that I availed the training and fully devoted to its utilization for productive income generation. It becomes my obligation to thank the SHED for approaching our village for the project and addressing the pressing power needs and PPAF for their financial support for the deserving community which made me able to pay the education fee of my Youngers and avail other basic needs.