

## Success Story

Wisal Khan, a 31-year-old, father of two, whose females have never been to cast their votes, broke the cultural barriers when he came out from his home along with his wife, sister and mother to use their CNICs in very first time of whole life in Bunair district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The extent of his achievement is best explained by that the community elders had barred women from even making their CNICs and casting their votes in many preceding elections in the district.



Society for Human and Environmental Development (SHED), a Peshawar-based NGO supported by TDEA, launched an UNDP funded project aimed at mobilizing the relevant stakeholders and the communities to encourage and facilitate women. The focus is on getting them registered as citizens of Pakistan by preparing their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC). In order to meet the target, SHED conducted door to door visits as well as worked with various stakeholders including NADRA, District Election Commission, and local leadership of various political parties, media, and civil society organizations.

To achieve the project objectives, besides other activities, SHED identified 15 youth volunteers and trained them to mobilize women and other community elders. Salman Khan, one of the 15 youth volunteers, identified Wisal Khan's family of Bazargy village who's 7 family women hadn't their CNICs. Salman approached Wisal Khan and told him about the project and activities. Wisal Khan took keen interest in the opportunity and decided to arrange meetings with local influential and told to start from his home. He agreed to take his family women to NADRA registration center and get them registered for free of cost.



“July 25, 2018, Today I am very happy that my wife, daughter and mother have also casted their votes for the first time in their lives. We were not even aware of the importance of a CNIC and women's registration was never taken seriously in our area. For the women in this locality, applying for a CNIC was quite troublesome as people were not aware nor can bear the expenses of transportation and fee etc.

I still remember when the SHED team met me and other locals and underlined how important it was for their women to have CNICs. The message was well received and once the community was informed that their CNIC will be free of cost and free transportation was arranged at the village level, people began queuing with their wives, sisters, daughters and mothers to get registered. I took my wife, mother, sister and nieces to the NRC Bunair. The staff there was very cooperative. We all are happy that this facility has been provided at our doorstep,” he says with a broad smile. “Having received their CNICs, the women in Bunair can now go to cast their votes and can also avail other many facilities including Benazir income support and vocational training program. Thanks to SHED.”