

## **Deh Chuhar-School Health Programme**

**Project Sponsor:** Rural Educational Promotion & Development Society (REPDS) - NGO

**Duration:** August 2015- April 2019

**Project Supervisor:** Dr Rozina Karmaliani

**Project Partners:** Institute of Educational Development, Department of Community Health Sciences and School of Nursing and Midwifery, AKU.

**Principal Investigators:** Nousheen Pradhan and Sohail Bawani

**Background:** The project aims to improve the well-being of the school age children belonging to the marginalized community through school health program. This community based school health initiative is under implementation by Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) partners in close collaboration with REPDS- NGO (Karachi based) at Deh Chuhar site. It's a peri-urban site located in Gaddap town at the outskirts of Karachi. Community leader expressed the need for health care services for school children. This need was fulfilled by establishing Health Room built inside the school premises, where Lady Health Visitor provides health care services to school children (currently enrolled in the school). In collaboration with Family Medicine Department, AKU physical examination of school children was carried out during Dec 2015 to Feb 2016. Department of IED is mainly involved in curriculum revision.

Demographic and health survey has been carried out to assess health and socio-demographic status of the catchment population residing in <3 km from the Deh Chuhar- government elementary school. The project also involves use of Participatory Reflection Action (PRA) tools by involving young men and women from the local community. These activities are carried out on monthly basis to build capacity of community to explore their social problems and to improve their living condition.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Improved basic health literacy and practices among school going age children, teachers and parents.
- Detect health problems among children (3- 11 years of age) through health screening.
- Empowered communities through capacity building in use of participatory methods and approaches
- Self-reliant and independent communities