

Improve Reproductive Health and Family Planning Outcomes by Strengthening Leadership Capacity and Institutionalizing a Leadership Program at the Aga Khan University

Department: Community Health Sciences

Project Sponsors: The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, USA

Duration: Jul 2009 – Mar 2013

Principal Investigators:

1. Dr Babar Tasneem Shaikh (June 2009 - January 2011)
2. Dr Neelofar Sami (February 2011 - June 2012)
3. Dr Sarah Saleem (July 2012 - March 2013)

Summary:

This project aspired to develop leadership capacity of the state and non-state actors to promote and facilitate networking and advocacy for Family Planning and Reproductive Health in Pakistan.

Following major activities were conducted under this project:

- A national advisory group was formed to oversee the activities of the project
- 128 participants from various public and private sectors and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) were trained for “Leadership in Family Planning and Reproductive Health” from 2010 to 2013 in Karachi and Islamabad through five trainings.
- Four reconvening workshops of trained participants were held to follow on their action plans.
- Two Advocacy Seminars on Family Planning and Reproductive Health were held; the first national seminar was conducted from November 15-16, 2011 at Hotel Pearl Continental, Bhurban attended by higher government and NGO officials. The second seminar was an International Advocacy Seminar (IAS) held in February 12-13, 2013 at the Aga Khan University Karachi. In this seminar, experts from Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia shared their experiences regarding their countries’ Family Planning Programmes and their impact on maternal and child health.
- A follow-up meeting on IAS was held on March 28, 2013 with key stakeholders to build consensus on the recommendations made during the IAS for the Family Planning Programme of Pakistan. This meeting resulted in chalking out “A way forward for moving Ahead Pakistan’s Family Planning and Reproductive Health Agenda”.
- A paper titled: “Leadership in Family Planning and Reproductive Health: a university based capacity building and networking initiative in Pakistan” was published in Pakistan Journal of Public Health 2012, Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 46-51.
- An oral presentation on “Leadership in Family Planning and Reproductive Health ---A step towards meeting the challenges of twentieth century: A case study from Pakistan” was presented in 6th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, in October 19-22, 2011 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Achievements and outcomes:

- A course on ‘Leadership in Family Planning and Reproductive Health’ is formed
- A number of leaders developed in Family Planning and Reproductive Health
- Report on 2nd International Advocacy Seminar and “A way forward for moving Ahead Pakistan’s Family Planning and Reproductive Health Agenda” is published and available
- Third Party Evaluation of the project was conducted.