

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

Legal Aid Society wins a case for a member of Hindu Community at Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal in SBA

Legal Aid Society (LAS) aims to identify the barriers to justice faced by religious minorities in Pakistan, and strives to legally empower religious minority communities through education and provision of legal aid, and support and to assess the effectiveness of the justice system in responding to legal needs and protecting the legal rights of minority communities.

The white color in the national flag of Pakistan & the white stripe on the hoist-end represents its various religious minorities. It represents peace and development.

The true reflection of this color was observed when **Mr. Naroo Mal**, a member of the Hindu community in Shaheed Benazirabad, received financial assistance of PKR 10,000 from Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) through the support of LAS.

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is an autonomous body that contributes towards poverty alleviation by the provision of assistance to the destitute, widow, orphan, & other needy people with defined eligibility criteria. The PBM provides support & assistance through the provision of financial support, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and artificial limbs, etc. The beneficiaries seeking support in this regard are mostly are health, education, or financial deprived. To apply for assistance from PBM the beneficiaries usually submit their applications along with all required documents at the PBM District Office. Mr. Naroo Mal on the other hand is a physically different (challenged) person and belongs to a financially under-privileged family. His case perfectly fitted the criteria for financial aid at PBM. However, despite having

his application submitted with complete documentation, he was earlier struggling to avail this assistance from PBM.

Over the passage of several months, Mr. Naroo Mal's case had been stretched only due to the fact that he did not had a formal certificate that could prove him to be physically disabled on paper. Moreover, his application was also affected by bureaucracy as Mr. Naroo was made belittled & disparaged from department to department and person-to-person to



Danish Ali (Field Advocate, LAS) & Moazzam Ali (Field Officer, LAS) with Mr. Naroo Mal (beneficiary)

attain his right, despite being physically different. Watching this injustice being done, **Advocate Danish Ali** (Field Advocate, LAS) & **Moazzam Ali** (Field Officer, LAS) immediately took up this case and had it resolved in a matter of 20 days through ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Mechanism.

At first, the LAS team helped Mr. Naroo to get a NADRA's Disabled Card and then filed his application before the Office of Ombudsman

for financial assistance from PBM. LAS team successfully presented his case and received one-time financial assistance of PKR 10,000 on behalf of Mr. Naroo.

This is also a unique case where a religious minority member had received assistance from Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal through ADR Mechanism. This case will set a precedent for hundreds of deserving members of religious minorities in Pakistan.



"Being a minority I was not expecting to get financial and legal assistance through any government department in such a smooth way, but Legal Aid Society did a great job in helping me, which they did by having a strong coordination with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal"

~ Words of Mr. Naroo Mal after successfully receiving the aid money from PBM.

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