

# JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

## Legal Aid Society wins a case for differently-abled people at Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal in SBA

The main objective for the existence of the Legal Aid Society (LAS) is to serve marginalized and underprivileged communities – to reduce challenges in accessing justice. LAS strives to legally empower underprivileged communities through education and the provision of legal aid.

Mr. Sanaulah, aged 36, and Mr. Ghulam Murtaza, aged 34, are two differently (physical) abled people from the same family. They live together in a rented house in Shaheed Benazirabad Sindh in a family of 12 members. One of their brothers is working as a laborer in Karachi who is apparently the sole bread earner of the family which makes it difficult for them to manage their daily household expenses.

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 avail of the financial assistance offered by the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, the two brothers submitted their application multiple times at the PBM office, but they did not receive a positive response. Due to their vulnerable condition, the family was guided towards free legal services provided by Legal Aid

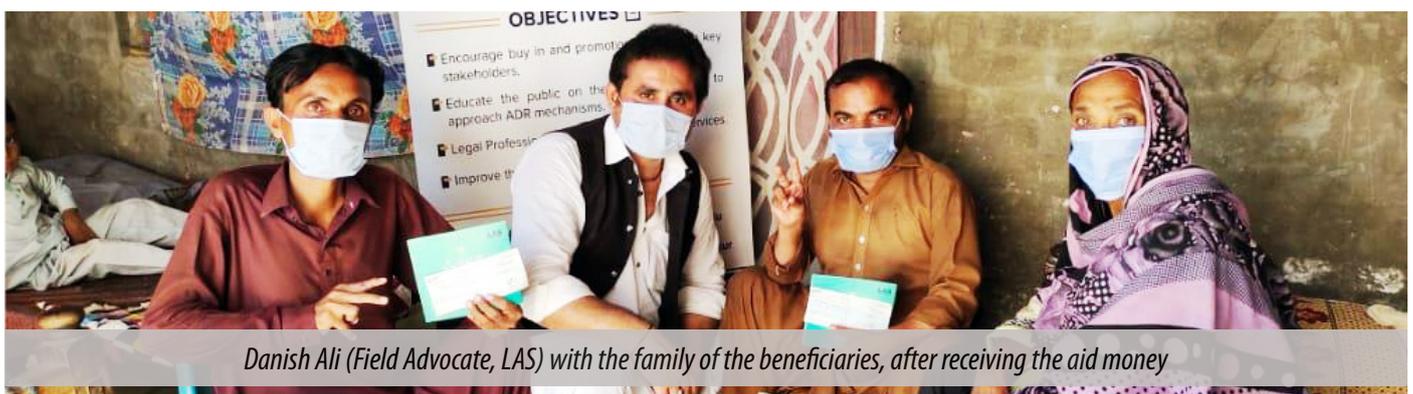
Society by another community member, following which the two brothers approached LAS to seek help in this regard.

Despite having their application submitted with complete documentation, the family was earlier struggling to avail of any assistance from the PBM. Over the passage of several months, their case had been stretched by bureaucracy, leaving the needy belittled & disparaged from department to department and person-to-person to attain their right, despite being physically different. Watching this injustice being done, **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.

After hearing the case details from the affected family, the LAS team actively pursued this case and moved the application before Federal Ombudsman, as a result of which the team was able to extract a cheque of Rs. 20,000/- from Bait-ul-Mal office and hand it over to the aggrieved family within 41 days. The family was gratified to get this support and they narrated that LAS is indeed the voice of the helpless and destitute people.

*"We are so thankful to the Legal Aid Society and Bait-ul-Mal for providing this assistance in this difficult time."*

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



Danish Ali (Field Advocate, LAS) with the family of the beneficiaries, after receiving the aid money