

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

Legal Aid Society helped a community in Pano Aqil to get the basic necessity of Gas Services

One of the main thematic areas that LAS actively works in is creating a sustained demand for Alternative Dispute Resolution methods in Sindh in order to reduced pendency on courts, and offer citizens a low-cost, effective justice alternative. LAS does this through legal clinics in 8 districts of Sindh.

LAS has conducted 159 Legal Clinics so far where 4,486 (2553 male, and 1933 female) vulnerable and disenfranchised citizens were given information and guidance about the procedure of resolving disputes and issues of local communities without filing cases in the court.

During a routine legal awareness clinic in Pano Aqil, Sukkur, **Mr. Mohib Ali**, a teacher by profession, and a resident of the village Qaim Khan; shared his concern on behalf of his community and informed that there are 70 households with a population of 1,500 people who were being deprived of a basic right of Gas connection - which is a fundamental right of every citizen. This was also a matter of anguish since the communities from neighboring villages were already having the gas facility provided to them by the State. Due to the unavailability of a gas connection, the whole community was compelled to purchase firewood on an average of Rs. 2,000 per month per family. Which is too costly for the residents living in that village, and therefore keeping

them deprived of undergoing more important expenditures such as education, healthcare, etc.

Previously the community members had submitted their application to the concerned organization several times but all those efforts went in vain. Finally, the community moved an application to the Federal Ombudsman's Office in Sukkur with the help of Field Advocates from LAS' Sukkur office. The Mohtasib Ombudsman is an independent institution, established by statute, to provide speedy relief to any citizen or legal resident of Pakistan, who may have suffered from any mal-administration at the hands of any agency of the Government of Pakistan.

Based on the application received from LAS, the Federal Ombudsman's office Sukkur issued a notice to the concerned authorities who immediately released the approval for the development of the related gas project for the community. This project, now approved, will help Mohib's community to get cheaper fuel power as compared to firewood, which will ultimately help them to save money on a daily basis. Moreover, this will have a consequent impact on the community's education, healthcare and nutrition standards in the long run - as families will divert their expenditures towards these areas.



Development & progress of the approved gas pipeline project in Qaim Khan village, Pano Aqil, Sindh