

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

LAS Helps a vulnerable family to regain its survival through timely legal support

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.

One of such stories where LAS helped a vulnerable member of the community, is of Ganga, a mother of six (3 sons and 3 daughters) who lives in a borrowed house in a small village near district Larkana

along with her husband and sons. All of her three daughters have been married off; while her youngest son (aged 8) is a special child. The remaining two sons (aged 16 and 19) along with her husband are daily wagers who were unable to get work regularly. Fortunately for them, Ganga had been a beneficiary of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for more than 10 years, which is the main source of their income; while this income was used for fulfilling the basic necessities of life.

In November of 2021, the BISP allowance payment was suddenly clogged, rendering the family into tough conditions, and for once they could hardly buy ration and medicines. Under



Advocate Noman Shaikh (Community Lawyer, LAS Larkana division) - on the bottom right; visiting **Ganga** (Beneficiary) and her family for their support

such circumstances, Ganga having no money to rent a rickshaw; traveled long ways on foot to all the concerned offices in the city to get this issue resolved, but failed miserably to get any satisfactory response, hence causing further disappointment and hopelessness.

One day Ganga happened to attend a LAS awareness clinic in the village; where Ganga learned that LAS provides free legal assistance to the marginalized segments, particularly the minority groups. At this moment Ganga saw a ray of hope for justice. At the end of the session, she discussed her case with the team, who immediately took notice and followed the necessary steps to assure that Ganga attains her right. With the help of **Advocate Noman Shaikh** (Community Lawyer, LAS) a complaint was lodged with the federal ombudsperson, and Ganga was invited to present her case in the presence of an 18th-grade officer from BISP. During this period the LAS field advocate consistently remained in contact with Ganga

and guided her throughout the process. As a result of which a favorable response was promptly seen, and the issue was resolved within the next 15 days. From the very next month, Ganga restarted to receive PKR 12,000 as her BISP allowance payment.

"I was literally crying when I received the money in my hand. Although in this era 12,000 is not a huge amount; but it brings survival for me and my family. With my righteous allowance in my hand, I ran through the neighborhood, telling every person about my story as I was very happy. Now, I can buy ration, clothes, and medicines; hence ensuring my survival. I am very grateful to Advocate sir, the LAS team in Larkana, and its management for their rigorous support".

~ Ganga



Advocate Noman Shaikh (Community Lawyer, LAS Larkana division) along with **Ganga** (Beneficiary) - in the middle, with her family after successfully receiving her BISP payment.

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