

United Action for Human Development (UAHD)

Annual Report 2012

Summary

UNITED ACTION for Human Development (UAHD) is a registered nonprofit organization under the Social Welfare Act of 1961. Established with a focus on sustainable development, UAHD has implemented community-based initiatives in rural areas, specifically in Jacobabad. The organization's work is characterized by its commitment to improving living standards, advancing environmental sustainability, and empowering women in marginalized communities.

Key Initiative: Fuel-Efficient Stove (FES)

Since 2012, UAHD has focused on enhancing living conditions in rural areas, particularly in UC Mubarkpur Thull and UC Ahmedpur in Jacobabad. A notable intervention has been the Fuel-Efficient Stove (FES) program, which aims to address environmental, health, and social issues caused by traditional cooking methods. The FES is a dual-stove, eco-friendly solution that not only reduces wood consumption but also minimizes health risks associated with traditional stoves.

Introduction of FES

The Fuel-Efficient Stove (FES) is a local innovation introduced by UAHD, designed to be both energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. By using only half the wood of traditional stoves, the FES helps reduce deforestation while providing a healthier cooking environment. The stove is designed to allow two stoves to operate simultaneously, thus reducing cooking time significantly. This innovation addresses several challenges posed by traditional stoves, including excessive fuel use, poor air quality, and the physical strain on women who are responsible for gathering firewood.

Challenges with Traditional Stoves

Traditional stoves in rural communities have a range of detrimental effects, including:

- **High wood consumption** leading to deforestation.
- **Limited stove operation**, making cooking inefficient.
- **Health hazards** such as respiratory diseases and eye irritation due to the lack of proper smoke ventilation.
- **Increased workload** for women, who must spend substantial time gathering firewood from distant locations.
- **Time constraints** limiting women's ability to engage in other essential activities like childcare or income generation.

Health and Environmental Impact

The environmental impact of traditional stoves is severe, as they require large amounts of firewood, contributing to deforestation. Furthermore, the smoke emitted from these stoves causes respiratory problems, eye discomfort, and lung infections. The traditional stove setup

United Action for Human Development (UAHD)

also creates a fire hazard due to its lack of safety features, and the extended time spent collecting firewood reduces opportunities for economic activities.

Benefits of the Fuel-Efficient Stove (FES)

The FES offers numerous advantages over traditional cooking methods, both in terms of health and efficiency:

- **50% reduction in wood consumption**, promoting sustainability.
- **Dual stove operation**, which cuts cooking time in half.
- **Cleaner utensils**, as the FES generates less soot.
- **Reduced burden on women**, as less firewood is needed, and less time is spent gathering it.
- **Improved health**, due to less smoke exposure and CO2 emissions.
- **Cleaner kitchens** and overall improved hygiene in households.
- **More time for women**, enabling them to focus on family care and income-generating activities.

Villages Benefited

The Fuel-Efficient Stove (FES) initiative has successfully reached the following villages in the Jacobabad Taluka:

- **UC Mubarkpur Thull:**
 1. Village Kamal Khan Tanwari
 2. Village Juman Shah
 3. Village Din Mohammad tanwari
 4. Village Azizullah Khoso
 5. Village Zarak Khan Brohi
- **UC Ahmedpur:**
 1. Village Aqil pur
 2. Village Ahmedpurt
 3. Village Abdullah Dakhan

These villages have experienced improved living conditions due to the introduction of FES technology, with hundreds of households benefiting from cleaner cooking practices and reduced environmental impact.

Conclusion

The Fuel-Efficient Stove (FES) initiative by UAHD represents a transformative approach to addressing environmental, health, and social challenges in rural communities. This intervention not only offers a sustainable cooking solution but also empowers women by reducing their workload and improving their health. The success of the FES program highlights UAHD's dedication to creating long-term, impactful solutions that foster community development and well-being. Through the FES program and its accompanying training initiatives, UAHD continues to drive positive change and advance the mission of sustainable development across rural Sindh.

United Action for Human Development (UAHD)

Pictorial view:



Construction of Fuel efficient stove and community meetings