



Group Development Pakistan

# Case Study

## Woman Agent of Change – from Mashal School community, Bari Imam

Kareema Bibi, 45, is a resident of a slum community settled in the peripheries of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Married at 13 to an adult man who was 38 years of age, she suffered a miscarriage at 13. She has been working as a domestic help around the locality as her husband is now old and unable to work. She has two daughters and two sons. Her third child and eldest daughter, Mariam, was engaged to be married.

On 24th September 2019, Kareema Bibi met Group Development (GDP) Team in a community session. While GDP was sharing the negative impacts of child marriage on women's health and welfare, Kareema Bibi shared her own story. She acknowledged that the reproductive process had taken a toll on her health and stated that she thought she looked "double her age".

Listening to the health implications and potential complications resulting from child marriage, Kareema Bibi became determined to postpone her daughter's marriage until she reached 18 years at least.

Kareema Bibi, along with her younger daughter Nosheen, also attended an awareness session on WASH and Education for All. This further added to her realization of the negative impact of child marriage on girls' education.

Thus, Kareema Bibi expressed her interest in

joining the community-based support group being formed by GDP. She is now a vocal member of the committee and speaks during sessions on the dangers of child marriage, quoting herself as an example. Kareema Bibi has now become a powerful motivating force in the community to protect children's rights and she will make sure that no child of hers marries before 18.