

Report of the Commission for Thar Drought

April 2016

Acknowledgement

The commission is highly indebted to all the members of Civil Society, Bar Associations, Media, General Public and District administration of Tharparkar for their time, support and valuable input towards making the report. The commission is also grateful to the officers of Provisional Disaster Management Authority, Sindh for their administrative and technical support to the commission.

Commission for Thar Drought

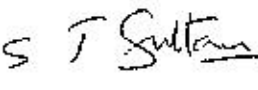
Several petitions were filed in the High Court as well as in the Supreme Court and media reports were also being published in respect of drought situation in Thar. Ultimately the Honorable Sindh High court was apprised by the Chief Secretary Sindh that Thar commission has been constituted by Government of Sindh. Such notification dated 21-03-2016 (Annexure-A) was submitted before the Honorable Sindh High Court, thereby Thar Commission as per following members was formed.

Mr. Abdul Fatah Malik	Convener
Dr. Tipu Sultan	Member
Mr. Sono Khangharani.	Member
Director General, PDMA Sindh	Member/Secretary

As such as dated 17.03.2016 the Honorable Sindh High Court passed an order. Consequently, dated 24.03.2016 the members of the commission assembled in the office of PDMA and the Secretaries of Revenue, Finance, Health, Food, Livestock department and Officers of Special Initiative Department also appeared before the commission as per the schedule (Annexure-B). The schedule in respect of visiting the different areas of Thar was published in various newspapers for wide publicity to appear before the commission on the dates and the places mentioned (Annexure- C & D). The Commission also held meetings with the Honorable Chief Justice Sindh High Court and Senator Taj Haider at their respective offices.


(Mr. Abdul Fatah Malik)
Convener


(Mr. Sono Khangharani)
Member


(Dr. Tipu Sultan)
Member


(Syed Salman Shah)
Member/Secretary

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Commission of Thar Drought Report

Objectives:

1. To enquire in to the causes, response of the administration in current crises.
2. To fix the responsibility for lapse, if any, of the concerned departments in mitigating the situation during drought in District Tharparkar
3. To Suggest recommendations for remedial measures.

THARPARKAR: A PROFILE

Tharparkar, one of the remotest districts of Sindh is located 400 km southeast to Karachi. The total area of the district is 19389 sq km and 97 percent of it is rain-fed. Administratively, the region was recently divided into 6 Talukas from 4 Taluka namely: Mithi, Islamkot, Nagarparkar, Chachro, Diplo, and Dahli. The district has a population of 1.3 million (official figures being quoted as estimates) spread over 3,500 settlements, 2,380 villages and 6 towns. It is one of the most densely populated regions in the world. Approximately, 45% of the population is of Hindu religion.

The economy is mostly driven by rain-fed agriculture, livestock, wage labour and remittances (mostly from internal migration). The livestock population in Tharparkar is again estimated around 6 to 7 million, accounting for 15% animal heads in the province, and is a major source of supply of meat and milk to the entire province and to Punjab transported through large trucks. A large majority of farmers are small farmers owning an average of 2.5 acres of cultivable land (as indicated by Agriculture Census 2010).

Tharparkar is located in what is known as "tail end areas" of the country, with access to water majorly compromised in the region.

There is one District Headquarter Hospital, 4 Taluka Hospitals, 1 Rural Health Centres, 49 People's Primary Healthcare Initiative facilities (PPHI) (that include 31 Basic Health Units and 18 Dispensaries), and 189 government dispensaries, all staffed to a minimum required level. The literacy rate is the lowest in the country especially among women. Ground water is the only source of drinking water of which 57 per cent is brackish and not fit for drinking.

The Context - Basic Services:

While the prospects of the coal reserves in Tharparkar are a subject of national discourse, the district itself lies at the bottom pit when it comes to access to basic services including access to food, health and population planning. A look at the human development indicators paint an extremely dismal picture.

A recent report by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute describes 58pc of the country's population as poor marking district Tharparkar as one with the highest incidence of poverty in Sindh (47 per cent households fall below the poverty line). According to a World Food Programme report, two-thirds of the population falls below the caloric poverty line, meaning they are unable to consume the required calories intake essential for human survival and healthy living. The district also crosses the Sindh Province's overall average of 40% of children being underweight as half the children below the age of five, in Tharparkar are underweight!

If all three districts of Mirpurkhas, Umerkot and Tharparkar are viewed together, there is one hospital bed per 4,135 persons in the entire region. There are only 171 Basic Health Centres, 11 Rural Health Centres and 7 Hospitals for a population of over three million in the three districts. There is no tertiary care hospital near to Thar except Jamshoro (LUMS)

As data gathered from another 2004 report, only five percent of women of child-bearing age or their spouse used any family planning methodology in Tharparkar. This is evident in a very high population growth rate of over 3percent. The problem is further compounded by one of the highest dependency ratios. It is difficult to imagine family planning services working with any degree of efficiency in an area where healthcare services are at their lowest. This probably explains why only 40 percent of expectant mothers can access complete medical check up once during their pregnancy. The international standard is at least four times during the nine months of pregnancy. A large number of medical checkups of pregnant women are performed by untrained doctors.

Education services, like health services, are equally lacking in Tharparkar. With one-third of Tharparkar's children out of school, the lucky few who attend school have to contend with a compromising student-teacher ratio as well as absence of basic ser-

vices such as drinking water and toilets in schools. Local NGOs point out that dysfunctional schools are the biggest problem in the region. In terms of curriculum, no extra attention is given to the fact that 45 percent of the region's population is Hindu and the curriculum needs to be adopted accordingly to address their religious sensitivities.

Tharparkar is currently undergoing a severe third consecutive year of drought. For the population in the remote villages of rural areas, the major source of income is rain-fed agriculture and livestock. Due to the absence of rainfall in last two years, there has been limited production of crops and fodder in most areas of the region. As a result of three years of drought, inflation, and lack of livelihood opportunities, the poor population of Tharparkar has completely exhausted their capacity to purchase food for their family and fodder for livestock.

The monsoon season between June and September is the time for rainfall, but in recent years, rain has been unpredictable and droughts are recurring, nearly every three years. Inadequate rainfall leads to lack of water, crops, and fodder, aggravating water and food insecurity. Soil erosion and land degradation continue to increase because of recurrence of droughts, increase in number of livestock that need grazing land, and cutting of bushes and trees. Inadequacy and loss of livelihood pushes the local population to seek debts that further entrap them into a cycle of vulnerability. These factors also compel people to migrate to barrage areas in search of food, fodder and water. Over the years, the barrage areas have lost the capacity to accommodate an exodus of people and animals from the Thar. There has been no efforts to create a reliable source of water for Thar's crucial livestock trade, nor has there been any dependable livestock assistance services such as effective veterinary care accessible to people. According to a government report, 80 pc of the livestock owners of Tharparkar have expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of vet care for the livestock. Whereas, Government Animal Husbandry department claims only 20 per cent of available capacity to serve the huge population and scattered area.

The Commission Process and Methodology

The first meeting of the Commission for Thar Drought was held on 24-03-2016 under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Fatah Malik, Ex-Advocate General, Sindh, Convener

of the Commission, at PDMA head office, Karachi which was attended by all the members of the commission.

The Chair appreciated the decision of the Government of Sindh to form the commission on the important issue of drought in Thar. The commission emphasized to go in all length in order to enquire the actual causes, ground realities of the drought and to examine the response of the administration not only in the current issues but also the past from 2013-14 drought as well. The commission committed to fix responsibility of lapses on the concerned departments without any discrimination. It was also unanimously decided to involve the public representatives of the Union Council, General Masses, NGOs, Bar Association, Press and all the government line departments. The Commission decided to visit the District Tharparkar in order to witness the ground realities, by visiting all the Taluka Administration headquarters, hospitals etc. It was also decided that the District and Session Judge who in the past has enquired in the matter shall be contacted.

The grievances of the General Public would be heard by involving Press, Bar, NGOs and all other stakeholders of the society. The commission decided to enquire the Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secretaries of Finance, Health, Food, Special Initiatives Department, Live Stock & Fisheries Departments and DG Thar Coal Authority in order to get the detailed information about the budget allocated and actual expenditures incurred on all ongoing, completed projects in the Tharparkar district.

The Chair also decided to meet with Senator Taj Haider and to request the Registrar High Court to arrange a meeting with the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

**MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON 25.03.2016 IN THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR TAJ HAIDER**

A meeting of the Commission for Thar Drought was held on 25-03-2016 with the Senator Taj Haider at his office, Barrack No 85, Sindh Secretariat Karachi.

The Convener appreciated the decision of the Government of Sindh to form the commission on the important issue of drought in Thar. He also informed about the scheduled meetings with the Secretaries of different Departments of Government of Sindh and a field visit of the District. The convener appreciated the Senator for his earlier report on the same issue. He also requested the Senator to explore all ways to help the Commission to meet its desired objects. During the meeting the Senator informed that apart from the other problems the main issue is the problem of transportation for the distribution of wheat and other relief items due to selection of long routes, as it increases the cost of delivery. He further elaborated that most of the people in the district sale half of the wheat provided. He was of the opinion that the reason for the mismanagement is the bureaucracy of provincial capital because a large amount of funds is being mismanaged by the higher bureaucracy of different departments, specially the Health Department and Food Department. He was also of the view that mismanagement in procurement is also a major cause and there is also lack of proper utilization of the RO plants in Tharparkar.

The Senator agreed to share the details of his study on the issue of drought in Tharparkar.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Senator.

MEETING WITH SECRETARIES OF GOVERNMENT OF SINDH HELD ON
28.03.2016 IN PDMA HEAD OFFICE

The meeting of the Commission for Thar Drought was held on 28-03-2016 under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Fatah Malik, Ex-Advocate General, Sindh, Convener of the Commission, at PDMA head office, Karachi. Following also attended the meeting:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Dr. Tipu Sultan | Member |
| 2. Mr. Sono Khan Khangharani | Member |
| 3. Syed Salman Shah | Secretary |

The meeting was held with different Secretaries as per schedule circulated as per the decision of the first meeting.

Meeting with Secretary Finance, Government of Sindh

The chair welcomes the Secretary Finance and apprised about the purpose and mandate of the commission. The chair asked the Secretary Finance for detailed data about the funds for the district Tharparkar. The Secretary Finance apprised the commission that the budget has two components i.e development and non development. The budget is separate for Provincial ADP and District ADP and in the Provincial ADP 15.6 billion was allocated for the financial year and the amount 17.5 Billion was released and 1483.5 million was allocated for district ADP, which was released completely. He further stated that in provincial budget they have released more than the actual allocation in order to meet the requirements. So the total amount of 18,611.861 million has been expended in the district.

The secretary Finance further informed that current year the allocation of provincial budget is 11,418.729 million out of which 10,383.480 million have been released so far. He stated that major expenditure is on Thar Coal development.

The Secretary Finance informed the commission that Federal Government is not involved in Thar coal development, which is most costly scheme and requires about 60

billion however the transmission line will be financed by Federal Government. Hence, all these projects/schemes will boost the overall development in the district which includes Hospitals, schools etc and the Coal will be used for power plant generation and the First power plant will be functional by 2018. He apprised that most of the non development budget is allocated for Health, Food, and Relief. The Secretary Finance further informed the commission that free wheat has been given for last 2 – 3 years which costs a huge amount for wheat distribution. The Director General, PDMA Sindh suggest that instead of wheat there is need to give cash through the Thar Cards. Mr. Sono was of the view that the wheat distribution by Relief Department is done through the contractors, which sometimes creates vested interests groups in fact there are many families which are not in Thar but still they get the wheat, hence fair distribution would be the cash distribution to the needy ones because it would help to improve the situation by eliminating the involvement of middle man. Secretary Finance informed that BISP is not ready to cooperate with the Sindh government in spite of number of times requests. The Sindh Government is trying to get data from a BISP, but they are not cooperating, even not for getting NOC from the banks for data. Secretary Finance recommended that Federal government should cooperate with Sindh government about BISP data as so far they have no satisfactory response. He was of the view that data of BISP may have certain loop holes, but it's better than others data's available and it would take at least one year to collect the new data for the province which not only involves time but cost also. The Secretary Finance recommended that it's better to distribute cash and BISP must share the data with the Sindh Government.

Secretary Finance further informed that in Health Sector they have approved creation of 687 new posts of different grades however he has no idea for progress of hiring. He also informed that about 28 million was allocated for the Mithi hospital only. The Secretary was of the view that whenever Health Department has requested for funds for Tharparkar the department has provided almost. However, the Health Department has not given exact demand for the new ambulances. They if propose, the same could agree upon.

Mr. Sonowas of the view that Livestock sector has little investment as there is huge number of locations of villages in the district, so the "Door step service delivery pro-

gramme" is needed with proper monitoring. The Secretary was of the view that the actual issue is proper nutrition, availability of drugs during pregnancy etc which needs to be taken seriously. In addition to that there is need to improve the existing services system of health and at the second step new system for service delivery would be taken up and Finance Department is ready to provide the required funds.

Secretary Food Department Government of Sindh

The convener asked the secretary to provide the details from 2013 onwards about the activities of the Food Department in the district Tharparkar. Mr. Sono asked about the reason for the variations in the wheat distribution. The secretary informed that the distribution is made as per the requirement of the district. Mr. Sono also inquired about the details reading the total allocation and phase wise distribution and reason for the variations, total expenditure on the distribution along with the transportation costs, and the proposing department for the wheat distribution. The secretary informed that the distribution of wheat lies with the Revenue Department but the go-down custody is with the Food Department. The Secretary informed the commission that he will direct his officer to provide all the required details to the commission.

Secretary Board of Revenue, Government of Sindh

The convener asked the secretary to provide the details from 2013 onwards about the activities of the Revenue/Relief Department in the district Tharparkar. Mr. Sono also inquire that what they have given in the relief, there total expenditure/cost and mechanism for the relief. However the secretary requested for some time to collect the details and on such request the chair allowed the secretary to prepare himself and provide the required information.

Secretary Ilvestock & Fisheries Department, Government of Sindh

The Convener apprised the Secretary about the mandate of the commission and enquired about the total figures of the live stock in the district, fodder arrangement and details of the veterinary staff. The Secretary informed the commission that drugs have been made available to meet the requirements. There are 35 veterinary officers

and 80 live stock assistants in the district and the major intervention is vaccination and the department is trying to achieve 100% vaccination. The department has so far vaccinated about one lakh animals this year. He informed that the animal population is scattered and the department is in need of about 100 million for the fodder. Beside that there is also shortage of staff as well for that they have demanded new staff through the SNE. The secretary also informed that three mobile dispensaries are also available in the district. Further he stated that Water reservoir are there but short and normally one family have 5-6 animals but they lack in proper nutrition. He appreciated the helping role of Finance department and informed that procurement of medicines is in progress.

On the query of Mr.Sono the secretary informed that about 3 lacks dozes of vaccination are available and 5 lack dozes are supposed to be got from Lahore soon. When DG PDMA asked about the progress after the last drought the secretary informed that they have done vaccination of animals and the staff is available along with 7 mobiles. There is on spot diagnosis along with strict vigilance. He further stated that the private sector has little attraction in the sector and the government has procedural issues. Further, during the Drought time large animals are migrated to cities. He was of the view that there are no crises in livestock but Drought is phenomenon which has affect on animals too. Mr. Sono discussed that migration is due to nutrition and there is issue of money and investment in the sector as well. The secretary stated that foreign imported animals cannot sustain here, they die.

Secretary, Health Department, Government of Sindh

The convener apprised about the commission and asked the Secretary Health to brief about the Doctors and Medicines details specific to the Tharparkar district. Secretary Health informed that the Focus is on child mortality and Children reported have no issue of attendance of doctors and paramedics in the hospitals. He was of the view that due to consistent focus on the district, things have changed for the last few years. While briefing about the Mithi Hospital he said that it is much better than other district hospitals in Sindh. Now the need is to equip the hospital as well as extend it's the capacity which was earlier 78 beds and now it has 170 beds. He also informed that a care centre and a Nutritional center has also been established in the

district. Apart from that the Contract doctors are also working in addition to regular staff. There is proper Patient care System along with medicines availability. He also informed that they have arranged funds from Finance Department provide to the concerned hospitals and about 50% of those funds have been released. In addition to that doctors have been asked to give their demands so that necessary financing could be made. He apprised that they are managing as per the capacity and have also arranged incubators. Emergency management position level is also there. The medical staff is working in shifts round the clock and ambulances are there to move the critical patients to the other cities. He informed that the infant mortality ratio was 3.13% which in comparison to Karachi is bit less. He stated that in Tharparkar there are 6 hospitals, 150 Medical officers, 18 Women Medical Officers, 6 gynecologists and 6 pediatricians but the shortage is still there. He apprised that 82 new dispensaries have been established which needs doctors for which Sindh Public Service Commission has been requisitioned to hire as the requirements has not been fully meet yet. He said that the attendance of medical staff is good and they are being monitored through DC's / ACs. However the main issue is that the Doctors are unwilling to be posted in the district. Mr. Sono appreciated the efforts taken by Health department and said that the actual issue is of hemoglobin and nutrition which needs long term planning. He emphasized that there are only 14 ambulances in the district however the need is beyond that. Even the diploma holders are also working as doctors. Secretary Health stated that "Sindh Nutrition Program" with World Bank will be started soon. It's a 4 billion project, which includes Tharparkar District as well. Hence as supplies are received the program will be started. He emphasized that there is need to strengthen the health centers with the help of PPHI.

However, the issue is that the doctors are not willing to work in Thar hence the department proposes that house job doctors must work as trainee doctors in Thar (only Tharparkar Domiciled) and there is also need for more ambulance services with full equipments. In this regard they are also trying for outsourcing with Aman Foundation as well. Further, different ambulances and 25 jeeps have been repaired and made operative in the field. The secretary informed that 746 vacant posts are requisitioned to SPSC and as recruited then they will be posted there. When Dr. Tipu Sultan asked for any out of box solution to resolve the issue of Doctors, the Secretary ap-

prised that hardship allowance is under consideration to retain the Doctors in Tharparakar. He also insisted for Public –Private Partnership to improve the condition of hospitals. He was of the view that introducing Health Insurance Card would also contribute towards improvement. Dr. Tipu Sultan asked that how will you cater mal-nutrition issue, because most of the deaths are because of the mal-nutrition. The Secretary informed that Iron Injections are being supplied but the actual issue is poverty. Mr. Sono when cited the problem of birth spacing and under age marriages the Secretary stated that Welfare Department is working on it and some foreign donor agencies have also shown interests to work for that as well.

Project Director, Special Initiative Department

Convener of the Commission asked the project Director to inform about the details of R.O Plants. The PD stated that 750 R.O plants are to be installed in Tharparakar district with the motive is to convert salty water to drinkable water. The scheme was started in 2014 with 5.4 billion of amount and it will complete in august 2016. He stated that they have no role in installation process of RO Plants but they have to monitor, select site through their team and site verification is also done by DC's. He informed the chair that one RO plant has 15 thousand gallons capacity / 8 hour working. Maintenance contract is for 3 years. Mr. Sono asked do you make ground study before installation of plants? The PD said that they install one plant for at least 1000 population and at least 100 houses but it mainly depends on recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner. He also informed that all of the RO Plants are working on the solar energy. Mr. Sono asked do you think there is installation issue. Do they have relevance with drought? The PD informed that the Scheme was made by demand of the government. Mr. Sono enquires that is there any unfair distribution of R.O plants? The PD stated that it is due to scattered population in villages and it is done on the need basis that's why in some villages more than one R.O plants are established. Dr. Tipu Sultan asked that there are about 4000 villages and total R.O Plants are 750 do you have more targets? There are variations in output? The PD said that yes we will install more plants through different phases, but it would be done through P&D Department. He also informed that one membrane's actual life is 5 years, but if salinity increases the life decreases.

The convener apprised about the commission and requested the Deputy Commissioner to brief in detail about the crises and its factual situation for addressing the issue. He further added that suggestions may also be given so that the drought situation and mortality ratio may be controlled. In response to which the Deputy Commissioner stated that first the Commission may visit the ground level in order to witness to realities and in the last he will brief in details. He further added that he has already conducted the meetings with all relevant stakeholders / NGOs working in the district as well. The Deputy Commissioner requested the forum may kindly conduct the meetings with relevant stakeholders to know the factual situation. Moreover, DC suggested that commission may also have the separate meeting with Divisional Commissioner and in the last they will help the commission to have recommendations and suggestions.

ADC -I

The Additional Deputy Commissioner-I briefed the commission that the major issue in the District Tharparkar is Health, the second issue is Food and the third is lack of Industrialization due to which the district is facing unemployment of the population and he also pointed out that the agriculture and livestock are also the issues. Furthermore, he said following actions are being taken by District Administration.

Total available Lady Health Worker is 641 and the requirement is about 1000. Hence, the District Administration has taken initiatives and asked the ACs to identify the women who are somehow literate. Than with the collaboration of NGOs they have trained 750 women who may perform duties as volunteers at community level. He further added that 189 government health facilities / dispensaries are available and now 184 health facilities are operational with the assistance of humanitarian organizations due to the budgetary issues. In response to which member commission Mr. Sono asked that what is criteria to fix the LHWs. In response to the question ADC-I stated that it is international criteria that one LHW is required for 1000 women but due to scattered population of Thar district there is a need of one LHW for 700 women. Moreover, the member commission Mr. Sono raised the observation that

where is the conflict in number of villages which may create issue of the distribution of the wheat.

Deputy Commissioner then requested the DHO to brief the commission about the factual position of health sector in Tharparkar district. Convener asked from the DHO that have you visited all centers / hospitals and all the hospitals are furnished and equipped. In response to which DHO stated that yes, I have personally visited and all the major hospitals are furnished and equipped. Convener raised the question that do you have any financial problem. In response to the question raised by convener DHO replied that yes, now a days we are facing financial problem. Budget allocation is minimal which does not meet the requirements hence sufficient budget may be allocated for smooth functioning and avoiding any eventuality.

Furthermore, convener raised the question that do you have any data about the lactating/ pregnant women present in District. In the response DHO replied that no such data is available. The member of the commission Mr. Sono enquired from DHO that do you have any details regarding the demand from government. The DHO replied that yes, I have the details will provide you.

Deputy District Officer (Family Planning)

DDO (FP) stated that in 4 Talukas we have 24 welfare centers, 04 medical units and 3 Rural Health Centers where reproducing issues are lying. The convener asked from DDO that have you visited all health centers. In response to which DDO (FP) replied that he didn't visited all of centers. Member Commission Mr. Sono highlighted the issue that the new ambulances have been shifted to Khemo area, Taluka Dahli where only one rural health center is present and in his opinion khesar areas has the dire need of ambulance. Furthermore, Mr. Sono asked from DHO do you have any history of the Children who died due to hepatitis, is that genetically issue and do you have any data regarding the mother screaming. In response to which DHO replied that no such data is available. The member commission Dr. Tipu sultan inquired that what the health crises are. Is this phenomenal and what is the solution? In response to questions raised the DHO informed that these are no crises, its natural phenomena, the mortality rate is highlighted as 73-74% but in our data it is 63%. In my view point solution of all these is to build the capacity of female human resource. Ambulance in each hospital, doctors against sanctioned post would also reduce the crisis

situation. DHO further added that the trained persons are also needed. DHO informed the commission that NGOs have done reasonable job. Dr. Tipu Sultan asked from DHO that are you dependent on NGOs. In response to the question DHO replied that they don't depend on NGOs.

Hands Organization (NGO)

Representative of Hands thanks the Deputy Commissioner and Commission for making him part of this important meeting and give little brief regarding the activities carried out by Hands in 20 UCs of 3 Talukas i.e. Mithi, Diplo and Chachro. He added that under the screening program 40383 children under 5 years have been screened. Out of which 2478 were severe and 9824 are moderate. About 25395 Pregnant and lactating women have been screened out. Out of which 8069 mal-nourished are under treatment.

Shifa Foundation

Representative of Shifa foundation briefed regarding the activities carried out by Shifa foundation in 24 UCs of 3 Talukas i.e. Chachro, Diplo and Nagarparkar. He added that total 1159 villages were targeted. 143620 children under 5 years have been screened out. Out of which 6647 were identified as severe, 27337 were moderate. Moreover, 61449 pregnant and lactating women were also screened among which 16975 PLW are treated under acute mal-nutrition program. He raised the issue of transportation in Chachro and Dahli due to which the community suffers a lot and could not reach at hospitals. Member commission Dr. Tipu asked from the representative of Shifa foundation that what are the causes of malnutrition? In response to the question representative of Shifa foundation informed the commission that breast feeding, birth spacing, mother malnutrition and non availability of food are the major issues of malnutrition. Mothers adopting alternate and add goat milk in feeding which creates the digestion problem.

The representative from Union Council Chelar recommended that tube wells are required for water lines at village level. He further added that they are in dire need of Roads. The representative from Union Council Dhorro requested that we need drinking water. The representative from Union Council Jurro requested the commission

that road access and health facilities may kindly be provided to the UC jhoro. He further added that R.O plant is operational and there is no any water problem. The representative from Union Council Bhabvar pointed out that R.O plants were not installed at required places. The representative from Union Council Babohar informed the commission that annual migration is the major issue. Tube wells may be installed for agriculture to avoid the annual migration. He further added that UC dispensary along with required facilities and staff may also be provided.

The Representative of Pak OASIS informed the commission that 460 R.O plants have been installed covering 2400 villages. The ratio is about 31% of the area while 69% area is out of the drinkable water. He further added that there are two types of R.O plants installed i.e Solar and Electrical. Mostly Solar based R.O plants are installed in villages which provide 15000 gallons per day. The Member Commission Mr. Sono pointed out the maintenance issue of R.O plants. In response to which representative of Pak Oasis informed that maintenance has been carried out as per agreement however after handing over the District Administration/ Government will be responsible. Another member of commission Dr. Tipu Sultan inquired from representative of Pak Oasis that is there any SOP for taking water? Any requirement of pipeline for providing water to community? In response to which representative informed that there is no any policy. People come from far flung areas to take the water. For big R.O plants pipelines are needed.

Livestock Department

Representative of Livestock department informed the commission that PPR vaccination is in process. 40 lac small animals and 16.5 large animals have been vaccinated which is 30% of the total livestock population. He further informed that 30 to 35 Veterinary Officers are available in 64 UCs while the 64 veterinary Officers are required. Member Commission Mr. Sono enquired that is there any mortality data available. In response to which VO replied that no such data is available.

Food department

The District Food Controller informed that there are five godowns in the District Tharparakar. When the Convener asked that if he has visited the godowns, the DFC

informed that he frequently used to visit the godowns. Mr. Sono Khanghrani enquired about the reason for the variations in the wheat distribution the DFC informed that the distribution of wheat is the responsibility of Deputy Commissioner/Revenue Department as the allocation/demand is being received from the Deputy Commissioners and the concerned Mukhtiarkars have to distribute the wheat among the public. When enquired about the time bar for storage of wheat, the DFC was unable to answer clearly. During the meeting the Mukhtiarkar of Mithi was also present and he informed that wheat is distributed among all the people without any prior assessment of income level. He also informed that 50kg wheat is distributed/per family in different phases and the transportation cost is 3 rupees/Km for each 50kg bag. He also informed that there are about 500 Depot keepers in the Taluka Mithi. When Mr. Sono Kanghrani asked why depot keepers are required the Mukhtiarakr was of the opinion that most of the Depot keepers are the notables of their respective villages and they are listed through the Deputy Commissioners and the Depot keepers not only distributes the wheat but also prepares the lists of the receiving people as well. He also informed that the Depot keepers get the Bardana only for their services.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION WITH THE MEDIA ON

30.03.2016

The Commission for Thar Drought had an open discussion with the journalists/media representatives on 30-03-2016 in the Darbar hall of the District Tharparkar. The Convener briefed the journalists regarding the purpose of formation of the commission. He asked the journalist to help the commission about the major issues of the district, causes of the drought, deficiencies at the part of the Government and also to suggest recommendations which can help towards mitigating the issues in the District.

The reporters informed the commission that they have been reporting the death figures since the times when there was no leady doctor available in the district and pointed out the vacant positions of the doctors. They were also of the opinion that there have been procedural delays in the DC office and the Chief Ministers house for the approval of the summaries related the matters of the district, which causes delays in the relief programmes. They further highlighted that no survey has been made for the distribution of the relief items among the families and there is also mis-

management of funds, the example is the transportation cost for the distribution. They also claimed that distribution is much lower than the quota cited which needs to be enquired. The live stock department has little response/unsatisfactory performance when it comes to the death of animals in the district. They also highlighted that there is need to upgrade/improve the existing condition/capacity of the hospitals, veterinary centers and BHU's etc. They also claimed that there is huge mismanagement in funds for RO plants and in the vaccinations done by the live stock department.

The media reports recommended that there is an urgent need to fill the vacant position of doctors, up gradate the hospitals, dispensaries, start nutrition programme and ensure timely supply of medicines. They further recommended that focus is needed on water crises as well and Ration cards system may be introduced instead of wheat distribution. Apart from that there is also a need for proper and timely rehabilitation as well. They also suggested closing timings needs to be increased for the BHU's under the PPHI control, deforestation needs to be controlled and funds may be provided for separate children hospital as well. They also suggested that enquires may be conducted against the departments reported for corruption.

**MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON 30.03.2016 WITH DISTRICT AND
SESSION JUDGE, MITHI**

A meeting of the Commission for Thar Drought was held on 30-03-2016 with the Honorable District and Session Judge Mithi Mr. Ubduillah Khan at his office in Mithi, District Tharparkar.

The Convener appreciated the decision of the Government of Sindh to form the commission on the important issue of drought in Thar. He also informed the Honorable Judge about the meeting with the Honorable Chief Justice of Sindh Court in this regard. The convener also appreciated the steps of former District and Session Judge, Mithi in the last droughts. The Honorable judge was of the view that there is need to address the issues of poverty and mal-nutrition. He was also of the opinion that the problem of water is one the real concern for the masses of the district. Hence, there is a need for proper planning for problems of health, mal-nutrition, pregnancy, and water scarcity in the district.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Honorable District and Session Judge for his valuable time and cooperation with the Commission.

VISIT OF TALUKA DIPLO ON 31.03.2016

Visit of the Commission to RO Plant of Taluka Diplo

The commission for Thar Drought visited a R.O Plant installed at Gharseer village. The plant was running on solar system. The locals informed the commission that most of the people are afraid of using the water of plants as they feel that it contains chemicals and instead they prefer the water from wells. Hence most of the water of these plants is used for animals and washing etc. They carry such water from far flung areas by themselves or through donkeys etc and the R.O plants are also not properly used because of the social biases and community issues among the masses. When enquired about the wheat distribution system they informed that there is no utility of wheat distribution because it can just provide food aid for a few days only. One of the villagers was of the view that they receive 40 kg not 50kg/per family, so how long a family can depend upon that? Further, the ordinary people cannot afford complete nutrition which includes chicken, fish or sometimes fruits due to the low purchasing power. In fact they were of the view that sometimes they cannot afford vegetables even.

Meeting with Assistant Commissioner, DIPLO

Convener briefed about the formation of the commission and its roles and responsibilities. The convener also stated that they have the mandate to fix the responsibility in case of any lapses. Then after, the convener asked the AC Diplo to brief in detail. The AC Diplo informed that 161,880 is the population of the Taluka. It comprises of three circles, nine Tapas (4 tapas are Barrage area and 5 tapas are desert) and 42 are Dehs. The desert area depends on the Monsoon and the rainfall varies from year to year. Furthermore, he informed the commission that 95% of the population is rural and Bajra, Gobar, Moong, Moth and sesame are the main crops of desert area, while cotton, wheat, sugarcane, chilies are cultivated in barrage area. This year the Taluka had less rainfall due to which crop is affected and people are suffering. He informed that according to the census 2006, livestock population is about 12,99,591. The AC Diplo also informed that there are 73 R.O plants out of which 36 are operational, 27 non operational and 10 plants are yet to be installed. The Assis-

tant Commissioner informed the commission that 66 Basic Health units and dispensaries are operational and remain under continuous monitoring. When the issue of medicines was highlighted the AC informed that the quality and quantity of medicines has been improved. The chair asked the AC that we need information from 2013 onwards and since when the crises started? In response to which AC informed that drought was not expected this year and only one death of a child has been reported. The member of the commission, Mr. Sono enquired that wheat distribution is done with any survey and barrage villages are also included in distribution? In response the AC replied that no survey has been done and Barrage villages have also been included in the wheat distribution. The member commission asked another question that why there is variation in distribution of wheat? In response to which the AC informed that it is due to variation in public demand as the wheat is being distributed per married families. Mr. Sono also asked that why phases of wheat distribution have no reflection of reasons of variation and what about the size of household, expenditure incurred upon transportation of wheat and how the transportation cost is calculated. In response to which Assistant Commissioner replied that normally a family consists of about 5 members and the transportation cost is done by Deputy Commissioner Office. Cost rates are defined by Revenue Board which is Rs. 3/km. In response to another question raised by the member commission the AC informed the commission that Depot Keeper is selected by village committee and wheat distribution is done in presence of four persons. Mr. Sono raised the issue that why contractors are involved? Who decided? Why to outsource through contractors? The AC informed that it is a policy decision by the government, might be notified through SMBR. The Assistant commissioner further added that we have little manpower hence depot keepers are required for the distribution. Mr. sono also asked that what is the benefit of depot keepers? Do you think that there are mismanagement issues and what are the reasons of disputes? The AC replied that the Depot keeper's feels connected, and finds himself socially influenced but have little financial incentives. As regard mismanagement the people are concern about their share of wheat so there are little chances of mismanagement. In response to the question raised by the commission the AC informed that R.O plants gives benefit to all the masses and our role is to monitor only. He further added that variation of water salinity is there and the Office of the Deputy Commissioners selects the location while they identify sites only. Mr. Sono inquired that is there any other solution than R.O plants? The

AC replied that Hand pumps, summer pumps may be installed. Cost per summer pumps is approximate is 1 lack rupees.

Mr. Sono also asked that do you have any mechanism for supply of water quantity, any information about volume and the jurisdiction covered. In response the official of the irrigation department informed that no exact data of such kind is available however one pipeline of supply was damaged in 2011 floods which have not been repaired yet. Further the officials also informed that there is no updated survey for data regarding the figures of animal deaths in the Taluka because there are capacity issues and there is also lack of officers, trained staff and vehicles as well. They also informed that there is also lack of awareness among the masses.

The food inspector informed the commission that there are about 2400 bags of 50 kg wheat stock available in the godown. He was of the view that wheat distribution is not the permanent solution of the issue. He informed that they receive many complaints for communal rivalries on the wheat distribution. When asked about any record for fodder provided the district official informed that it is done through the DO animals and he was also of the view that Fodder is more important than the vaccination because it is the actual need of the animals hence the amount spent on vaccination can be spent on providing fodder .

Visit of the Taluka Hospital Diplo

The commission also visited the Taluka Hospital Diplo. The MS informed the commission that the medicines' purchasing is done on the need basis and a committee verifies the same but the medicine availability was delayed for the six months. He also informed that there are 40 beds in the hospital. The hospital consists of general, women and Children wards and people are being properly attended round the clock. Apart from other necessary medicines the medicines for snake and dog bites are also available. When asked about the problems he informed that houses for doctors have been occupied by the Rangers authorities, which needs to be made available for the doctors. He also said that there is serious issue of proper drainage system. The buildings need to be repaired. Apart from that there is also need to fill the vacant positions of the doctors and the other staff. During the visit the issue of contract doctors was also discussed and the MS recommended that the contract doctors and other staff must be regularized as their career security is under question. He also

informed that the maternity home has not been handed over to the hospital yet. During the visit it was also noticed that the Trauma centre for which 12 crore budget was allocated has not been completed yet. The local public informed that the contractor's whereabouts have been unknown since 2013 and the centre has been in half completion status since then. The public also informed that a large number of equipments of the building have remained unutilized.

Visit to a Food Departments godown in Diplo

The commission also visited a godown near to the Diplo town. During the visit the Food inspector informed that 2952 bags of 50kg of wheat are in stock. The commission also checked the record of the receipts of the contractors /Depot keepers. It was also informed that the current stock of wheat was of 2013-14 season. During the visit it was noticed that there was no boundary wall for the godown. The godown was also in need of repair as well.

Meeting with Civil Society, Public and Bar Diplo.

The convener apprised about the commission and highlighted the importance of the commission and its role and responsibilities. He further invited the forum for discussion to manage the crises. One of the representatives of Bar association briefed the commission about the Tharparkar. He stated that Basic issue is the health in all Talukas but all stakeholders are focusing on Mithi Hospital. He further added that a comprehensive policy is required for Tharparkar. The Bar representative further added that health facilities may be provided at village level with same facilities and staff available in Tulaka hospitals and Deputy Commissioner must divert the donors to other vulnerable UCs.

In addition, other community representatives stated that to manage the crisis permanent solution is required and recommended that solar water pumps, public transports and ambulance services must be improved. One of the community representatives suggest that salt factories may be established to empower the youth of this area and reduce the rate of unemployment. Road networks may be developed for easy access of the community at health facilities. In addition he suggested that wheat bags needs to be given on subsided rates. Another community member raised the issue regard-

ing the drainage system. He suggested that agriculture loan may be provided to community. One of the community members pointed out that during the crises wheat is not distributed properly. He further added that in UC Kaloi 1000 acre of land is not cultivated due to unavailability of water so the small dams are required for the storage of water and education system may be improved. Representative of Shehri lthehad Diplo informed the chair that they have the major issue of pipeline which damaged during floods 2011 and same is not repaired till to date. Such pipeline is the main source of drinking water of Taluka Diplo. Furthermore, he stated that maternity home which is partially damaged for 2 years. Representative of Diplo stated that committee may be formed / notified at local level to monitor the distribution of relief and poverty education survey is also required. Representative of Qaumi Awami Tehrik advised the commission that appointment of employees in Thar Coal Authority are outsourced so the opportunities may be given to the local peoples. This is one of the solution of reducing poverty / crisis. One of the representative pointed out that water supply may provided instead of R.O Plant and technical college may be strengthened. During open discussion member commission Mr. Sono inquired from the participants regarding the wheat distribution and the solution of the crisis. In response to which the community recommended that the Ration Card may be introduced instead of Wheat Distribution system. Furthermore, he asked from community that the drought may be linked with rainfall or with production and on which basis drought needs to be declared by the government. In response to which community mutually agreed that drought may be declared on the level of the production not on the basis of rain fall.

Meeting with Media Representatives

During the meeting with the Media members the Convener clarified that his statement, being convener in the meeting on 30.03.2016 has been misquoted by the print and electronic media. He did not say that the political representatives are responsible for the prevailing situation in the district. In fact he stated that the public should ask their representatives for their performance to whom they have elected. He further said that the commission is trying its best to understand the issue holistically, which includes health, education, livestock, food and other sectors having direct or indirect relationship with the life of common masses. During the discussion the jour-

nalist were of the opinion that the area has remained ignored since long and the current government has did little as compare to the previous government for the betterment of the people. In fact the government has been unable to properly maintain the infrastructure build during the Mushraf's era. They were of the view that the government has benefited its political supports only. They highlighted that there is need to cater the issue of water scarcity which has larger effects on agriculture, human and animals lives as well. They suggested that increase in employment of the local people in government and private sectors is the permanent solution to the chronic issues of Tharparkar.

VISIT OF TALUKA CHACHRO & DAHLI ON 01.04.2016

Visit of R.O Plant

The Commission visited the R.O Plants randomly and Airport Road, Village Phangariyoon and Village Wejihyar. The Representative of Pak Oasis informed the commission that we have installed Model Solar based R.O plant at Airport Road. He further added that the people prefer to hard water, but gradually they have aware and started taking water from R.O plants. The representative of Pak Oasis further briefed the commission that the people of phangariyoon can get maximum benefit from R.O Plant. Due to the installation of R.O plants house wife and children save their time as they go far away from village to take water and children can get time for education. The member commission Mr. Sono identified the Government dispensary which were not operational and asked the ADC-I Tharparkar to make it operational as soon as possible so that people can get first aid treatment.

Meeting with Taluka Administration of Chachro and Dahli

The Additional Deputy Commissioner-I, Tharparkar welcomed the Commission and briefed that he has the charge of AC Taluka Dahli as well. Then after the convener introduce the members of the Commission. He further added that the commission has mandate to fix the responsibility in case of lapse if any and advised the officers to brief the factual situation / position and also inform about the crisis and give suggestions to overcome the situation.

The Assistant Commissioner, Chachro informed that Taluka comprises of 5 circles, 10 Tapas, 19 Dehs and 313 villages. He further added that the entire area is desert. Furthermore he stated that 8phase of free wheat distribution has been done. The AC informed regarding the factual situation and stated that the conditions of the health facility are not good in condition. Also there is issue of availability of medicines, staff, and doctors in the hospitals. He further added that incubators are available but no technical staff is present to operate the incubator. AC further stated that 4X4 vehicles are not available and district officers have also not 4X4 vehicle due to which officers are unable to go the villages which are far away from the town. The member of the commission Mr. Tipu Sultan asked that is there medicine available in dispensaries. In response to which AC informed that yes the medicines are available. The

member commission Mr. Sono inquired that how many government dispensaries are present and how you manage the crises. In response to the question raised, the AC informed that there are 50 government dispensaries are operational. As far as the crises are concerned, the provision of technical staff, doctors and other relevant staff can reduce the crisis. He further informed that since long there is no population welfare office and its staff is available. They have taken notice and have meetings in this regard with DC, Commissioner and now the officer with office and staff is available.

Member commission Mr. Sono inquired from Population welfare officer that how much staff is available and do you have any work plan. In response to the question the Population welfare officer informed that 2 camps were made operational and plan is available and same has been shared with the Authorities. The member of the commission Mr. Sono raised the issues regarding relief operations, distribution of free wheat, depot keeper and their selection. In response to which the Mukhtiarkar Chachro informed that some issues were raised in distribution and now committee has been formed to monitor the proper distribution. He further added that during 8th phase 24773 wheat were allocated out of which 21,634 has been distributed amongst the families so far. Furthermore he stated that Approximately 400 depot keepers are present and selection is made with the recommendations of notable persons and community of the village.

Mr. Sono asked that is the wheat distribution is a solution to manage the crisis. In response to the question Mukhtiarkar replied that it is not a permanent solution. Interventions in the Agriculture sector would help to manage the crisis. He further added that Agros based loan and installation of tube wells can also help to reduce the crisis. Member Commission inquired that is there any drought? Because this year more crops were damaged as compare to the last year. In response the Agriculture officer informed the commission that he had requested to the higher authorities to declare Chachro as Drought calamity hit area. Moreover, he also stated that deforestation is also on vogue. He suggested that the section 144 must be implemented on cutting of the trees. Seed back model may be adopted. "Bair" is local crop of Chachro Taluka. Some of the program/ intervention are also required for cultivation of "Bair" crop.

The Convener of the commission inquired that who is responsible for the cutting of the trees. In response to question the convener was been informed that local community is responsible. Beside this he also suggested that forest officer may be dep-

loyed at Taluka level. Agriculture officer recommended that Gaucher Development plan, Dairy Development Plan, Bair grafting, Tree planning, Aricen work plan and water plan may be adopted as the areas consist on sandy soil so the sweet water is required for cultivation. Member of the commission Mr. Sono asked regarding the functioning of R.O Plant. In response to the question the representative from Pak Oasis replied that the target of the installation of R.O plant were 125 out of which 57 have been installed, 43 plant are functional while 14 are un-operational and 66 are in process of installation. All R.O plants have the capacity of 15000 gallons per day. The member Commission Mr. Sono raised the question that on what depth such plants were installed? In response to the question representative from Pak. Oasis said that most of the plants were installed at the depth of 350 to 550 feet at Chachro and Dahli. The member commission Mr. Sono pointed out that in chachro and Dahli area the water is present at depth of above 1000 feet so the feasibility for the R.O plants is not satisfactory and that result in the damages of motors and made R.O plant un-operational.

Meeting with Assistant Commissioner Dahli

The Assistant Commissioner, Dahli informed that Taluka comprises of 3 circles, 7 Tapas, 23 Dehs and UCs 7 old and newly 11 with the projected population of 236,400. He further briefed regarding the health facilities and stated that there is one RHC at Kheensarr, 3 BHUs and 26 Government Dispensaries and all are functioning. The member Commission Mr. Tipu inquired about the availability of medicines and Paramedical staff. In response to which AC said that sufficient stock of medicines is available. There is need of doctors and other paramedical staff. Furthermore, he stated that as for as veterinary facilities are concerned there is one dispensary and 16 veterinary centers which are functional. The member of Commission Mr. Sono inquired about the R.O plants. In response to the question, the AC said that the target is 125, 43 are operational, 14 un-operational, and 66 are yet to be installed. He further added that 162665 bags of wheat have been distributed in 8 phases.

Visit of Taluka Hospital Chachro

The commission visited the Taluka Hospital Chachro. During the visit the member of the commission visited the Gyne ward and inquired that how many gynecologists are available. The MS replied that 2 Lady Doctors are available. Dr. Tipu sultan further inquired that how many patients admitted in gyne ward per day and also inquired that which type of cases are mostly dealt. In response to the questions Lady Doctors replied the 30 – 40 patients admitted daily and both normal as well as C-section cases are dealt round the clock. Furthermore Dr. Tipu Sultan asked regarding the issues of the hospital management and doctors. In response to which the Doctor informed the member that there are problems like the housing of doctors are in a very bad condition which needs to be renovated. The lady doctor further added that higher authorities stated that extra allowance/ Thar allowance would be paid along with the salary but yet no such allowance has been paid. Dr. Tipu Sultan further inquired that what age group of pregnant women came for delivery and treatment. In response to which the lady doctor informed that normally 25 – 40 years pregnant women came here for treatment and we also frequently treating the age group of 15 – 16 years. Lady Doctor further stated that mostly pregnant females having six to eight hemoglobin level and the normal female HB level is 14 and anemic cases are also registered. Dr. Tipu also visited the X-ray room, male ward, Laboratory, store room and peads ward as well. The Member commission Mr. Sono inquired from the store keeper that when they have received the first tranche of the medicine from the current budget. In response to the question the store keeper replied that in December, 2015 they have received first tranche of the medicines. Dr. Sono pointed out that there is huge gap between receiving of the medicine from the last budget year to current budget year. Furthermore he inquired about the vaccines of snake bite. In response to the question the store keeper informed the member commission that yes we have anti venom vaccines. He further inquired from doctors that due to installation of R.O plants cases of diarrhea are reduced or same. In response to the question the doctor said that during history taken such questions are not raised by them so he didn't have such data.

Meeting with the Public, Civil Society, Bar and Media

The convener of the commission introduced the members of the Commission and its roles and responsibilities. He further added that the commission has mandate to fix the responsibility in case of lapse, if any and advised the participants to brief us the factual situation / position and also inform us that what are the crisis and give suggestions to overcome the situation. Then after, he opened the forum for all.

Representative of Community briefed the commission that R.O Plants which were installed in Chachro are not useful as the area of Chachro and Dahli has the depth level water more than 1000 feet and the R.O plants were installed without any feasibility so therefore they are not functioning. He further added that in all 8 phases of wheat the Depot keepers were changed due to un-understandable reasons and free wheat distribution is not the permanent solution of the crisis. He suggested that wheat may be provided on subsidized rates and instead of R.O plants water supply schemes may be introduced to manage the crisis. Maternity homes are not available so there is dire need of such facility and further he also pointed that the contract of the doctors is near to be expired so the regularization of the doctors can be made with incorporation of additional allowance in salary.

One of the UC member pointed out that there is no any criteria of selection of the sites for the R.O plants. He point out that wheat is not properly distributed, the posts of doctors are vacant and vaccination of livestock is also among the major issues. A few veterinary Officers are available. He further added that everyone has focused on Mithi which is not a rural area, its urban area hence the focus on rural area is required. He also pointed out that the medical facilities; political transfer and posting of paramedic staff are being made. He was of the opinion that medical facilities under PPHI are operational up to 2.00 p.m. He also pointed out the issue that TMA funds were not utilized properly and no any NIT was made since long and the employees were appointed on daily wages, which are not performing their duties. District Disaster Management Authority was notified but not functional. Neither PDMA nor NDMA conducted frequently visits in Chachro and Dahli Taluka. He also raised the issue regarding the Thar Development Authority and said that all the relevant documents were submitted by committee till no any action is taken on the policy. He suggested that if these issues are addressed than the crisis would be reduced.

Another representative endorsed the issues raised by other representatives and in addition he informed that illegal occupation on Gauchar land has been made, unequal access to health facilities at far flung areas of Cahchro and Dahii and Benazir Dastarkhwan has not been started yet, up-gradation of the health facilities are required. BHUs efficiency is limited and inadequate and there is only one stabilization center available in District Tharparkar. 15% of livestock of Sindh is in Thar but the 1% budget is allocated for that. He further added that quality of education is low. He pointed out the youth of Tharparkar is suffering due to un-employment and he was of the opinion that in Thar government preferred to provide quality water but neglected the access and quantity of the water availability.

He suggested that if the government takes appropriate action on the above issues than the crises can be managed. He further suggested that Agriculture extension center may be established, traditional resources be implemented and priority should be given to the employment of the people of Thar. He also suggested that agro based loans may be provided on minimum interest for the betterment of the Agriculture. The Representative from Abban UC raised the issue of poverty and requested the commission that better policy may be adopted to reduce the poverty and he further stated that road network may be strengthened and vaccination of the animal is not enough, deforming is also required. Another representative pointed out that proper planning must be adopted for the mitigation and stated that safe drinking water is required by water supply lines. He pointed out that canal water is a legal right of the people of Tharparkar. He further stated that in order to mitigate the crisis, micro-finance interventions, agriculture loans, loan on livestock and tube wells may be provided. During the open discussion the member of the commission Mr. Sono raised the questions that what you suggest is the wheat is permanent solution. In response to which the community replied that wheat may be provided on subsidized rate and free wheat distribution is not a permanent solution. Instead of wheat, Ration Card mechanism may be adopted. He further added that drought may be inter linked with rainfall or with crop production. In response to which the community said that drought may be inter linked with production. In addition Mr. Sono asked that is the R.O Plant a permanent solution to manage the crisis. In response to which community replied that installation of R.O plants is the short term solution. For permanent solution pipeline of the water supply may be provided at Village level and canal system may be adopted.

VISIT TO TALUKA ISLMAKOT ON 02.04.2016

Visit of RO Plant

The commission visited a RO plant which provides water to the town. The plant manager informed that the plant has capacity of producing 1.5 million gallons of water per day having 15 tanks for storage. The plant is about of one thousand feet in depth. It works on generators. The production cost is 40-50 paisa per gallon of water. The plant has seven layers and multimedia panel.

Meeting with the Taluka Officials at the office of Assistant Commissioner Islmakot

The convener of the Commission apprised the officials that this commission has been formed by the Government and has not only the confidence of Sindh High Court but of the Honorable Supreme Court as well. The convener also requested the officials to help the commission so that it may reach to the expectations of the people. He offered the officials to give their true and actual demands and also highlighted their problems faced being in the field. The Assistant Commissioner Islmakot briefed the commission that the Islmakot was made a separate Taluka in 2012 with 9 Tapas and 21 Dehs having population of about 2.15 Lacks. The taluka consist of 307 villages. He informed the commission that there are about 42 Government dispensaries. There are 66 leady health workers and where the LHW are not available the literate women from the villages were selected and trained to help and guide the women of the area about their basic health issues. They also help the pregnant ladies for the delivery. Apart from that all the Government dispensaries are being visited and monitored by the AC and Mukhtiarkar. Furthermore, the health services have been made available in the community centers where there are some building issues. However, due to the shortage of doctors some trainee/house jobs doctors from Karachi were also made available for the services in the area. While talking about the Wheat distribution system he was of the opinion that they have not received any complain for the corruption in the distribution mechanism but most of the complaints are about the Depot keepers replacement/change due to the personal/community problems among the locals. He informed the commission that during the eight phase of the wheat distribution 166817 bags (50kg per family) have been distributed. Meanwhile, there are 771 Depot keepers in the Taluka currently. When

inquired about the live stock situation, the concerned official informed that there is one veterinary hospital in the Taluka and 167978 animals have been vaccinated this year. There are 3 veterinary doctors, one dispensary, and 15 veterinary centers in the Taluka. The commission when asked the Assistant Commissioner that how do you think about the solution of the issues then he was of the opinion that Ration card system would be better than wheat distribution which may include rice, wheat and pulses etc. as far as the long term employment is concerned the Thar coal blocs may provide number of job opportunities to the skilled and unskilled labor of the area by making them less dependent on the government. Furthermore, optimum utilization of available live stock, irrigation will boost the local economy of the area. Mr. Sono when inquired that why there is variation in the distribution figures and increase in the number of Depot keepers the Mukhtiarkar informed that the variation in the wheat quantity is due to the increase in the demand from the local people and the number of Depot keepers was increased due to the issues/conflicts among the people on the communal and personal basis. Mr. Sono asked that there are 73 RO plants and 10 are non functional what is reason behind that? The AC informed that some of the RO plants are non functional due to the less bore/drilling than the actual requirement and some have the lack of maintenance in terms of the membrane and other technical faults. However, there is no operator for some plants, making it non-functional. Mr. Sono asked that do you think that RO plants are the long term solution of the problem of the water. The AC was of the opinion that it seems to be a short term solution only and the long term solution is pipe line system and installing of tube wells for the irrigation would be more helpful in the future. When enquired that do you have taken any initiative for the improvement in agriculture productivity and the AC has stated that 10-20% Bajra has been produce this year do you agree with the figures? the agriculture officer informed that they guide the people for the better production and he agrees to the figures quoted by the AC. Mr. Sono when inquired about report regarding the low production of Fodder this year the Agriculture officer informed that he has reported about the less production and a research was also conducted which revealed that there was low quality of seed which resulted in low production. Mr. Sono asked that agriculture department has taken any initiative or proposed any suggestions against the cultivation through tractors because it affects the traditional cultivation methods and productivity .The official informed that the tractor cultivation method is harmful for the soil because the soil of this area

needs only three inch layer of cultivation but tractors cultivated more however so for they have not given any written report in this context.

During the briefing the Taluka Education Officer (Male) stated that there are 498 schools in the Taluka out of which 424 schools are having one room building. Further, he was of the opinion that one room building schools are much difficult to run for the teachers as they are crowded and divides concentration of the teachers. Mr. Sono was of the opinion that one room school was not the policy of the government but still there are such schools in the district. The officer was of the view that there is huge politisation of the education system in the area. Every year they give report for the requirements but little effect it has. The AC informed the commission that School Management Committee funds remains unutilized due to fact that the members of the committees are afraid of malpractices and don't want to get themselves involved in the utilization of the finds. Dr. Tipu asked the AC that what is your role in education system, do you think one room policy is counterproductive and what you suggest for betterment being the administrator of the area? In response the AC informed that they monitor the schools and they have little resources for making the system improved, as for as the one room building is concerned then it needs improvement. Dr. Tipu inquired about the average salary of the teachers then the officer informed that it varies from 20 to 40 thousands in average. The officer also informed that about 50% children's have no basic furniture availability in the schools and teachers are also in shortage. The Taluka Education Officer recommended that there must be some incentive for children to improve the school attendance, which may be in cash or kind etc. The merit culture must be ensured in the recruitment process as it would bring the well educated and competent people in the field. He also emphasized that the Education Management Cadre system must be implemented in order to separate the teachers from the administrative process. The SHO of the area also joined the meeting and informed that this area has very less crime rate and they have started strong actions against the illegal alcohol sellers etc.

Visit of the Rural Health Center Islamkot.

The Commission visited the Rural Health Center of Islamkot along with the Assistant Commissioner. During the visit the MS informed the commission that the center has been up graded as Taluka Hospital but the implementation has not been made yet.

He informed that there are 15 doctors in the center out of which 12 are male and 3 are female doctors but the need is more. There are only two ambulances which does not meet the requirement. He was of the opinion that some incentives like residence and financial benefit must be provided to the doctors who are posted here. The MS was of the opinion that the Center has enough equipment as per its requirements. When asked about the demands he stated that the center is overburdened as it covers a huge area of the district. Apart from that the building needs maintenance as well. He was the opinion that in order to make timely accessibility to the people the road and communication network is the real problem behind the reason that people could not reach the center in emergency, hence focused must be given on this as well.

Visit of the Food Godown

The Commission also visited the godown of the food department in Islamkot. The Food Inspector informed that there are 1490 bags of 50kg wheat in stock currently. He also informed that the available stock is of 2014-15 crops. The Members also checked the measurement of some bags on random basis and the measurement units were found properly sealed.

Meeting with the General Public

The convener of the commission welcomed all the participants and informed about the formation, mandate and responsibilities of the Commission. He also informed the general public about the meetings with Honorable Chief Justice of Sindh High Court and with the different Secretaries of the Government of Sindh. He also highlighted the visits of the commission to the different towns of the District Tharparkar. He also apprised the people to give their valuable inputs about the causes and remedies of the crises in Thar. In response the people belonging to all segments of the society were of the opinion that

- One of major issue of deaths is the lack of timely accessibility to the health centers during the emergency.
- Need financial support for employment generation and not for making dependence on the government.
- Agro-based industry could engage lot of the farmers and labor.

- Tax relaxation policy will increase investment.
- Live stock is the major source of livelihood, it needs proper fodder and vacation as it has direct effect on the human lives. Hence, Fodder may be given on discount.
- Drought is not only caused by less or late rainfalls but by low productivity as well.
- Political involvement is very high in all government departments, as they have little interest in betterment of the masses hence they must be kept at arm's length.
- Some RO plants are non functional, a few are not installed properly and a many have no operators which must be checked properly.
- Population welfare department has unsatisfactory performance, which needs to be checked and proper working must be done on family planning.
- Monitoring system must be strengthened in health and education departments.
- Emergency numbers must be made available round the clock for timely health services.
- There is need to establish technical centers to make skilled labor and technicians.
- Focus is also required to boost the tourism sector.

After these recommendations from the general public Mr Sono asked the people that do they think there is drought in Thar, however the response was mixture of opinion some says yes, some says no. Then he asked that wheat distribution is the solution of the issue? The majority was of the opinion that it's not the permanent solution. When he asked that RO plants are required? The response was again mixture of opinion.

Briefing with Media

The convener of the commission asked the journalist to please put their suggestions apart from asking same questions time and again as it would give some value addition. In response the journalist asked that why RO plants were given to private company when the government has its Public health engineering department and the cost of RO plant is about 25 lacks but why the government went for 45 lacks for one plant?. The Convener of the commission was of the opinion he will give his findings

in the final report hence any comments before the final report would be reasonless. The journalist then suggested that mismanagement needs to be checked in all line departments.

VISIT OF TALUKA NAGARPARKAR (03.04.2015)

Meeting with Taluka Administration

The convener apprised about the commission and requests the Assistant Commissioner to brief in details that what are the crises and what are the factual situation may be communicated in details to address the issue. He further added that suggestions may also be given that how to overcome the drought situation and mortality ratio may be reduced. He added that the commission has mandate to fix the responsibility in case of lapse if any and advised the officers to brief the factual situation / position. The Assistant Commissioner, Nagarparkar informed that there is no drought like situation in the Taluka because one spill of rain has happened, furthermore he stated that 8th phase of free wheat distribution has been done. The AC stated that the condition of the health facility is not satisfactory, there is also issue of staff and doctors in the hospitals. He further added that due to unavailability of road network patients are unable to reach at the health facility on time which is the cause casualty and said voluntarily in coordination with humanitarian organizations TBAs which can be help full at village level in case of delivery

Member commission Mr. Sono inquired from the representative of food department about the depot keepers, wheat distribution and crop production, in response representative the officer of food department said that total 23926 wheat bags are distributed in the 8th phase. Further, Mr. Sono point out that what are the reasons of increasing in the number of the wheat bags, on the question the concern officer said that as per demand receive from the community the department are requested to increase the wheat allocation and in addition AC said that depot keepers are selected by respective community, further Mr. Sono point out that if wheat is distributed properly then what are the cause of the migration of the people? Is there any mechanism to monitor and to maintain the data of the migrations? And what is the coordination mechanism? In response AC said that coordination meetings are hold with stakeholder and no such migration data is available.

Representative of Livestock Department, Member commission Mr. Sono raised the question with Livestock Department regarding the data of death of animals and how many animals are vaccinated, in response concern officer said that no any data regarding the death of the animal data is available and there is issue of the manpower, only two doctors are available at Taluka along with 11 stock assistants and med-

icine/vaccines are required along with veterinary doctor to cater the need, they also have no any 4X4 vehicle due to which officers are unable to go the villages which are far away from the town and he further said that DDO powers may delegated at Taluka level so during the time of emergency require medicine and vaccine can be purchased.

Representative of Wild Life Department stated that there is a shortage of the manpower, only three members are in staff, hence such issues strikes monitoring and he further stated that staff are required and no any vehicle is available of the patrolling so there is a dire need of the vehicles.

Member commission Mr. Sono said that frequently complains are receive from the community regarding the cutting of the trees, so is section 144 has been imposed on cutting of the trees? In response concerned officer stated that due to some issues the proper monitoring cannot be ensured, which are unavailability of the vehicles and minimum man power.

Representative of Irrigation Department briefed regarding the availability of the water in dams and stated that 20 new small dams are in process from which 14 dams are completed which will make cultivation of about 70 thousand acres of the land possible. Hence, through the small dams the water of rainfall can be preserved and made available for cultivation. Mr. Sono asked that how the water will be distributed and any other suggestions for the flood water preservation? Then the officer was found unable to answer the query. However, the convener asked that what you suggest for the betterment in your sector than the officer was of the opinion that there is a need for the true implementation of law.

The town officer also informed that the budget of the town is about 11 millions per month out of that 4 million is expenditure on POL and maintenance etc and 2.5 million NIT is in process. He also informed that water from wells is distributed in the town as there is no RO plant available for the town which has 4km of jurisdiction and about 10 lacks of population.

Than the Taluka education officer stated that there are 530 primary boys schools out of which 408 are functional and 122 are nonfunctional due to lack of availability of teachers as 288 posts are lying vacant. However he had no data available for the one room school buildings. He also informed that there are seven supervisors and claimed that all the villages of the Taluka have schools. When asked about the details of the visits of the supervisors he was found unable to give any details as no

record is taken from the supervisors. But the officer suggested that the incentives are required for improving the enrollment in the schools, which may be one glass of milk and bread for every child a day. The Social welfare officer was having no proper details to brief the commission and just informed that 8 NGOs are working in the Taluka. The officer from the agriculture department informed that they visit the fields in order to educate the people. However, he was of the opinion that there is issue of crop protection as well. Then the officer from the Police department appraised that the condition of law and order is much better in the Taluka and there are having no tolerance for the alcohol and wine suppliers. When asked about the public reports for the involvement of Rangers in some rape cases, the officer was of the opinion that he has not received any complaint of such nature.

Visit of Taluka Hospital

The Commission then visited the Taluka Hospital of Nagarparkar where the MS briefed that there are only 20 beds in the hospital which needs 20 more. The hospital covers about 2 lacks of the population of the area. There are 10 male doctors and one female doctor in the hospital but the need is for 20 doctors to cater the situation. Apart from the building is not of enough capacity hence need extension. He also informed that there are 3 ambulances, one 4x4 vehicle and 2 incubators are available in the hospital. Meanwhile, he was of the view that the residential accommodation for the doctors is damaged. When asked about the death of children he informed that 24 children deaths were reported in 2015 and 6 in this year. He also apprised that the hospital has no RO plant which is of dire need for the drinking water. During the visit of the store the official informed that delivery of medicines has been on time but sometimes the multinationals makes delays as well. The MS also informed that there are some other issues related to the hospital which includes lack of doctors, lady health workers and medicines etc and the doctors working on contract needs to be regularized as their career uncertainty is major cause of de-motivation among them. During the visit of the Peads ward it was observed that most of the ladies were having 4-5th pregnancy at the age of 25-30. Thus owing to early marriages and low birth spacing the health of not only mother but the child also suffers.

Visit of Godown

The commission also visited the godown of the Taluka where the officer informed that out of 23962 bags 246 bags of 50 kg are in stock as the rest of the bags have been distributed during the 8th phase of wheat distribution recently. The officer informed that the crop is of 2014-15 season. He also informed that there are 614 depot keepers in the Taluka.

Meeting with the General Public of the Taluka Nangarparkar

The convener of the commission welcomed the all the participants from all walks of life in the gathering. He briefed the people regarding the composition, purposes, mandate and responsibilities of the commission. He highlighted the media reports about the district in relation to the towns the commission has visited so far. Then after, he requested the participants to present the real facts and realities. He also apprised the people regarding the seriousness of the government towards the permanent solution of the issue. When he invited the people for their views the participants informed that the health facilities are deteriorated in the Taluka. There is a need of ambulances as the Taluka comprises of a huge area with scattered population. The people have to reach the Taluka hospital from very remote areas in the time of emergency but owing to lack ambulances they are unable to get the timely medication due to non availability of free ambulance and they cannot afford expensive taxes. In fact, there is a lack of female doctors not only in the Taluka Hospital but in the BHUs, RHU,s and Government dispensaries as well. Not only this but even no lady doctor is available at the time of delivery cases. They also stated that most of the dispensaries are non operational due to absenteeism of the employees. So there is a need to keep a check on such non operational dispensaries and timings of BHU's must be increased, which is 2pm now.

A member of a union council stated that there is huge budget of the Town committee but most of that has been misused and people are left with no option except drinking uncontained water. In fact water survey must be done not only for the agriculture sector but also for domestic consumption as well. They were of the view that the soil of the Taluka is more fertile than rest of the district but owing to lack of water most of the soil remains uncultivated. Another member was of the opinion that this year the fodder production is less instead of rains which has affected the health of live stock. Hence, they suggested that more small dams are required to make the

soil cultivatable and increase the productivity. In addition to that rain water could be stored and utilized properly. They also stated the formers receive low rates for the crop which has affected the investment in the agriculture sector.

When asked about the wheat distribution system they were of the opinion that the Ration Card system would be more beneficial than the wheat distribution system and the elected chairman's of local bodies may be given authority to prepare the Ration cards in their respective area with the help of revenue department. One of the participant stated that there is a huge difference between the figures given by the Sindh Government and District Government regarding the number of bags of wheat distributed. Another participant said that many people could not get wheat due to the condition of CNIC and Nakkah Nama. The majority of the people were of the opinion that wheat distribution is not the permanent solution of the crises in Thar. Then the participants highlighted that there is little focus on female education because there are only a few girls high schools in the area. It has badly affected the female enrollment in schools after 5th class as the coeducation system is not matching the social and cultural system of the area. So there is need to establish more schools for girls.

While talking about the RO plants the people were of the opinion that the plants were given on favoritism basis. In fact there seems no proper vision and policy of the government about the RO plants. One of the union council members stated that there are 12 ecological zones in the district and each zone needs policy for all sectors of economy. Thar is full of natural resources however there is need of proper and well researched policy for the development of the area. They also suggested that soft loans may be given to boost the local industry and the solar light system may be established where the transmission lines are not available.

The Convener of the commission than requested the female participants to give their opinion. A lady said that the schools are very crowded so the required number of teachers and infrastructure must be given to the girl's schools. Further, they highlighted that the social dogmas, early marriages, low birth spacing and mal nutrition are the major issue behind the death during pregnancy. However, a lady said that when the ordinary men do not have enough food and water to sustain the life than what to talk about the implantation of modern concepts of family planning etc. Another, lady said that a depot keeper gets 200 rupees per family for getting their due share of wheat. Apart from that backwardness of transport, water, health and

education sector are the real causes behind the crises in Thar. They suggested that unskilled LHWs needs proper training to guide the people. Further, the school buildings controlled by the influential people/organizations must be vacated and used properly.

Meeting with Media

The convener of the commission asked the media members to give their valuable suggestions also. Then the journalist said that there is less productivity of fodder hence steps must be taken for the availability of fodder at the UC level. Apart from that there is a need to focus on the betterment of the education system. Issue of fire brigade may also be resolved as many houses went burnt if there is any type of fire incident. They also suggested that the doctors of the town which are working in the other talukas must be made bound to work the Nnagarparkar.

Meeting with Mr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, MPA

Mr. Mahesh Kumar Malani the elected representative of PPP called on the commission at the at the circuit house of district Tharparkar. During the meeting the convener apprised him about the formation and mandate of the commission and said that the elected representatives are the bridge between the government and the public hence they must come forward and give their point of view for the problems and there solutions. Mr. Mahesh than said that the concepts about Thar have changed after 2000. Earlier there was no communication network in the district. In fact, it was one of the most backward districts of the province, but now things have improved to greater extent. He was of the opinion that the main crises in Thar have been that of health, which was much severe in early periods as compared to current situation. However, there is acute poverty due to the less income sources and about 16 lacks of scattered population is there across the district. He said that infant mortality is as common as in other districts of the province but the causes are different in Thar which are mainly poverty, malnutrition, early marriages, old medication methods and lack of awareness in the masses.

Then he highlighted that the current government has done a much better job towards addressing the issues of Tharparkar. The health facilities have improved not only in Mithi town but also in the rural areas as well, which includes availability of lady doctors and specialists also. Apart from that there are 250 dispensaries across the district.

However, one of the major causes of death is late arrival at hospitals and medical centers from the far flung areas. He emphasized that most of the schemes are completed and forty five new dispensaries are in the process of completion and the health budget has been doubled. Doctors were also recruited on contract basis in order to meet the emergency situation. When asked by the commission for his suggestion for improvement, the MPA said that there must be two RHC's in every Taluka and one BHC in each Union Council. There is a need to establish a medical college in Tharparkar so that doctors may be retained for services and it will change the situation drastically. In addition to that 1000 new Lady health workers may be also recruited. There is also a need to establish a paramedical school in Mithi. He further added that monitoring system may be improved for the schools and the civil society must come forward and play its role for the betterment of the people. When Doctor Tipu asked that how the doctors can be retained in the district then Mr. Mahesh was of the opinion that the domicile based postings of the doctors from Thar will help to retain the doctors and certain financial incentives will also help to retain the doctors. He also added that the Population welfare department must be made very active to play its role. When Doctor Tipu asked about the future of RO plants the MPA was of the opinion that there are 750 RO plants in the district which have given a lot of benefit to the prudent masses and incase if the company abandon then the government will retain the plants through some department. When Mr. Sono talked about the problem of depth of drilling and common design of the plants Mr. Mahesh said that the scheme is very good and the commission may advice the government about the future plans.

Mr. Mahesh also suggested that there is also a need for the Agriculture and a live stock training institute in the District. Apart from that solar pumps may also help to mitigate the situation. There is also a need to create awareness through the camps and mobile communication network may be made available in the remote areas. Talking about the wheat distribution he said that 80-85% wheat was distributed fairly. However, Ration card system through the registered shops is the permanent and better solution. Doctor Tipu asked that Thar coal is the game changer? Then he replied that yes this is a great project and it willbring a lot of positive changes in the district. Mr. Mahesh was also of the opinion that Media is creating exaggerated hype and the role of NGO's also needs to be checked.

MEETINGS ON 04.04.2016 AT MITHI

Meeting with Deputy District Officer (Primary Education)

The convener of the commission apprised the officer about the formation and mandate of the commission. The officer while presenting the education profile of the district informed the commission that there are 114 boys' middle Schools and 15 girl's middle schools in the District. There are 4033 Primary Schools out of which 3428 are boy's schools and 605 girl's primary schools in the district. Further, he further informed that there are 5192 teachers out of which 4726 are male and 545 are female teachers and 718 is the total number of non teaching staff. In addition to that he informed that 45 male supervisors and 3 female supervisors are also working in the district. The Officer also stated that 563 schools are non functional, out of that 335 are boys and 227 are girls schools. There are 989 vacant posts of teachers in the district. When asked about the utilization of School Management Committee (SMC) funds he informed that some irregularities are reported in the utilization of funds however most of the funds have remained unutilized owing to the fear for strict accountability among the members. When enquired about the performance reports of the supervisors he has said the he don't have any reports regarding the supervisors. Mr. Sono asked about some reports regarding the corruption in the examination system he said that he has not been reported for such mishaps otherwise action would have been taken. Mr. Sono also asked for the news that there are sub-contracts for the teachers for the duties than the officer was of the view that such reports have no factual justifications. However, he was of the view that there is not a single new school after 2008 and the NCHD is also helping to make the schools operational. When enquired about the lack of required furniture in the schools he stated that furniture has not been purchased for the last many years due to the issue of budget releases.

Visit of RO Plant at Mithi

The Commission visited the major RO plant established in the Mithi town. The plant has been named as solar hybrid water desalination complex with a production capacity of 2 million gallons of water per day. It works on the solar power on 1MW and having 20 RO skids. The plant covers 150 villages of around 3 lac population. It was also informed that TDS products of water is less than 5000 PPM with 20 bores of

around 600ft deep. Mr. Sono asked that if the governments wants to take over then who will run the project than it was informed that they can hand over to the government department but they will have to develop the expertise's and in case they are unable than the public will suffer the company wants to continue such plants. They also inform that there are 55 employs for the plant out of which 45 are locals and 10 are other technical staff members. When asked about the distribution mechanism it was informed that they just produce the water and the distribution is to done through pipeline by the municipal administration. In fact, most of the water remains in surplus as the pipelines have little capacity to distribute across the town. However, when asked about the total cost and operating cost of the plant they were found unable to answer.

Visit of the Mithi Hospital

The commission also visited the Taluka Hospital of Mithi town. He MS of the hospital informed that about 50 deliveries are reported every month for which there are 5 gynecologists 13 incubators in the hospital but most the females came to the hospital have 6 to 7 HB level of blood due to the proper balanced diet and the issue of birth spacing is also a major cause for the deaths. The doctors were of the view that there acute issue of malnutrition and lack of health education in the area for the deaths. Most of the girls are married in the teen age which causes low birth spacing and affects the health of a mother. The mid wives in the area neither performing their duties nor they are properly trained. When asked about the problems for the doctors there are low salaries to the doctors to service in such hard area. There is no overtime, no incentive for the overtime and tough routine is major due to which doctors are unwilling to get posted there. In fact they have no accommodation facility. Apart from that the career of contract doctors is in limbo for the last two years.

Meeting with the District Officers at DC office

The commission held a meeting with the district administration of Mithi. During the convener apprised about the whole visit and meetings with the officials, elected representatives, media and civil society members at all taluka headquarters. He highlighted that there are several lapses at part of a few departments specially the Population welfare and Agriculture department. Apart from that there seems to be mismanagement in education and health department as well. During the meeting the

Assistant Engineer from Public Health Engineering department informed the commission that no input has been taken from the department about the RO plants and in fact the department was taken into loop for the installing the plants. Mr. Sono asked that if the RO plants are taken the department than do you have the capacity to run them and new tube well schemes are also under process along with RO plants so why there is duplication? Than the officer told that they don't have the trained manpower to manage the plants and as the schemes are concerned tube well scheme are going separately by the initiative of the department and RO plants have no connection with their scheme.

A. COMMISSION'S OBSERVATIONS, IMPRESSIONS, AND ANALYSIS

Based on the several meetings with community, officials, media and others both at Karachi and in Thar, the Commission observed that management and governance, poor healthcare infrastructure, lack of timely decisions, coordination within different departments, water supply, food crisis, system of declaration of drought, priority and focused investment and resource allocation, frequent transfer and posting of some of the key positions in Tharparkar and gaps in government relief efforts as prime factors behind the crisis in Tharparkar. Below, we share details of our understanding of these dynamics:

1. Management and Governance

Development in the region of Tharparkar mostly appears to focus on physical infrastructure, rather than human development. As we were told, this too is selective based on the political affiliations. The present government has continued the focus on road structure that connected villages. Later, the government pursued it further in order to encourage investment in coal development. Most of the officials that we met mentioned in private of their inability to perform effectively as per government rules due to the influence from political representatives. Also, at times the competent officers are either not willing to serve in Thar or are being discouraged to be posted there. We found that officers posted in the department of health, population welfare, agriculture, livestock, education, Taluka Municipal Committees or Town Committees (much talked about scandals and corruption) are less competent or posted to their near retirement. There are also lack of accountability of these officers. Hence, the overall management of the district affairs is in the hands of either un-trained officers or under the influence of political activists leading to crises.

2. Poor Healthcare Infrastructure:

While remoteness is an issue in addition to Tharparkar's vast landscape and spread out population, there is no reason why this region should not have received special attention from the government for its specific characteristics. A single district hospital for a population of 1.3 million, majority of which is vulnerable is indicative of the underlying cause of crisis. The presentation made by DHO also pointed that there are total 256 health facilities out of which 217 are operational. These Include; DHQ 1,

THQH (not yet approved) 4, RHCs 1, BHU and Dispensaries Managed by Private Company (PPHI) 49, BHU/GD/MCH managed by Health department 117. Entitled 184 BHU/GDs were completed in 2014-2015 out of which 84 had been made functional. The other facilities including Midwife led birth stations 14, LHW supervisors 22, and LHWs 641. We did not verify their posting but people whom we met were of the view that some of them are ghost workers and the others are politically favored postings of their choice. There are total 23 either diploma holder or specialist in Thar out of 15 are based in Mithi Hospital. There are 309 posts of specialists, medical officer and others of grade 19 to 17 are vacant from the approved strength of professional. Together they cover 584,535 people but leave out 710,372 others which is 40 per cent of the total population coverage. While this gap is a huge issue, we were disturbed to learn that at the time of the crisis neither the LHWs were working, because of non payment of salaries for months, nor the 189 dispensaries established across the district – which do not have professional doctors – were functional. If anything, they had collapsed because of the non use of infrastructure, which was a result of non issuance of maintenance funds over the years. Much of the initial energies and resources of the government went into resurrecting the structures of LHWs and the dispensaries which, if received timely and adequate care by the government, may have reduced the magnitude of crisis to a great degree.

When we visited the five hospitals, we found them to be operating very equally to that or on some instances fairly good of hospitals in developed urban areas. There seemed to be care for hygiene and the ambience carried a pleasant look. However, patients were wearing extremely dirty clothes and even children were not provided with any patient gowns or diapers. It is extremely disturbing to imagine that this should happen on a daily basis and each and every death case reported Tharparkar follows a story of state's incapacity to help the vulnerable. The buildings of the hospitals such as Diplo, Chachro and some parts of civil Hospital Mithi were in shambles as the structures are 15 to 20 year old and have not received funds for repair over last four years. However, we were told that shape and infrastructure of PPHI has improved because of proper repair and maintenance. The building of Civil Hospital Mithi is primarily segmented and wards are isolated from one to another. It creates huge problem of maintenance and requires more funds to keep them clean.

The location of BHUs is not unified as per population need though this happened in the past but it has created an uneven coverage. There are some union council that have more than one BHU and the others where there are none. This was a classic example of politically motivated distribution of BHUs rather than on the bases of need (refer attached map of BHU). For reference; In Taluka Nagaparkar, there are 5 BHUs, in Diplo there are 13 BHUs, In Mithi there 5, In Chachro 6, In Dahi 3, and in Islamkot only 3. However, it was confirmed that the budget for the main health facilities has been doubled and releases made by the finance department.

There is also huge miss match between the construction of buildings as Government Medical Dispensaries through works department and approval or sanction of the budget for operation (SNE) of these buildings. Hence these buildings are constructed first and would be waiting for the approval from the finance department, which some times does not come even of the lapse of years. By the time the SNE is sanction against these buildings the condition of the structures was reported to near collapse. This lack of coordination and Bureaucratic lapse at each stage is responsible for huge losses both financial and human as the end users.

2.1 Ambulances: There were merely 14 ambulances for the entire district, 6 of which were under use by the Civil Hospital, Mithi. We were told that if patients are referred to advance medical care in any other part of Sindh, the fuel cost of transportation is to be paid by the family. This may run as high as Rs 8,000 for Hyderabad. How is a family living under extreme deprivation with no assets to meet this expense? A family we met informed that they had to take a taxi at 5.30 in the morning that drops them at the hospital at 10.30am. For a critical patient, a 5 hour time lapse due to poor transportation, amounts to deliberate murder. Due to the limited number of ambulances, it is hard to imagine caregivers of patients being in a position to call one to transport them to the hospital.

2.2 Doctors' private practice: There were very strong complaints of doctors' private practice in the region. A senior government representative we met actually officially stated that doctors refuse transfers to the Tharparkar region or any other place if there is no opportunity for private practice. We were also told that one of the major reasons behind the crisis was government doctors' refusal to work in Tharparkar. This was linked to the hard allowance amount that was referred as RS. 200 for all

the grades announced in 1985. It has not been changed since then. This trend continued even after the crisis was officially announced. These are medical officials on the payroll of the Sindh Government. The Sindh Government is still struggling to hire medical personnel and specialists despite offer for additional incentives. Such insensitivity on the part of medical and healthcare professionals is ghastly given the amount of benefits they have received from the state for delivery of their regular duties. There is need for strong action against those doctors who refuse work in remote areas or seek private practice to make additional money ignoring their responsibilities towards their noble profession. However, a reasonable compensation specially to a female doctors is the need of the day. We also observed that number of residential spaces within there premises of the Hospital had been occupied by non-medical officials, which has also created sense of less privileged profession in Thar.

The crisis multiplies in the absence of specialists especially those related to gynecology and pediatrician practice. We also failed to spot a single nutritionist. According to DHO's presentation, there are only 23 specialists in the district. Given the official number of deaths standing at 828 since 2014, mostly because of low birth weight, birth asphyxia, severe pneumonia, neo natal sepsis, and respiratory distress syndrome, it is shocking that only 23 specialists (15 works in one hospital) are left to care for a large number of cases.

2.3 Preventive Healthcare: Immunization, birth through trained birth assistants, a functioning and capable family planning structures, are the top most requirement of the region where most of the deaths and cases of poor health can be directly traced to poor preventive healthcare infrastructure. The experts we met all emphasized early marriages, malnourishment in mothers and children, lack of immunization and access to antenatal care and health facilities as the prime concern of the region. Low birth spacing to the extent of a pregnancy every ten months also points to poor knowledge of family planning as well as disproportionate burden on women's health in a traditional family set up. It was very disturbing to note that the family planning or population welfare department personnel were absent in addressing this critical issue. Birth in unhygienic conditions is also a reason for newborn infection. Majority of pregnant women in Thar generally have no antenatal care and families take too much time to admit them to a hospital. Children's tendency to develop pneumonia also comes from deficits in child care as mothers are overworked and also under-

nourished. We were also told that as there is no culture of changing children's clothing regularly while diapers are unaffordable for families, it is easy for children to fall ill.

2.4 Deaths of Children: The deaths of the children especially new born and under five continue to being reported. All the deaths happening within the premises of Hospital are being documented and reasons for death are recorded. However, there has been number of deaths in the womb and in the villages or cases that were referred to tertiary facilities, which are neither counted nor documented. This anomaly leaves the reason to believe the crises is much larger. Also, un-trained birth attendants, misuse oxytocin drug, uncontrolled quakes practicing and early communication and registration of expected mothers is completely missing. The findings confirm that there has been increase in the number of deaths of children in current drought. However, these deaths have been steadily increasing over the past three years.

The trend of deaths was not noticed and no strategy was prepared to deal with the impending emergency by the Health Department and the District Administration. It was their responsibility to prepare seasonal calendar, and possible impact of weather change on the lives of the children. The present wave of deaths increase was noticed during the onset of severe cold weather in late November 2015, which is still continuing. It is the duty of the health department to analyze the trend and put up a risk management before the concerned authorities on time and mitigate the risks.

The children suffering from illnesses (mainly related to anemia) were admitted to secondary healthcare hospitals (District and Taluka Hospitals) at a stage when it was too late and there were minimal chances of cure. This is a testimony to poor service delivery or bad management of primary healthcare services of RHCs, BHUs dispensaries, and others. Inadequate healthcare facilities are evident from the number of vacant posts of GPs, specialists and lady doctors. There are only 21 filled seats out of 34 for specialists and 88 filled seats out of 251 for General Practitioners.

3.0 Timely Decisions:

The commission witnessed that the decision related to the release of funds, administrative controls, relief distribution, takes anywhere from a few weeks to months to happen resulting in delays on ground. For example, the livestock department has not procured drugs after 9 months the financial year have passed. A concerned officer

informed that the tender to procure medicine has just been made. Similar case was with the human medicine. The first stock that was received by the district hospital and other health facilities was in November 2015. This indicated the lapse of a five month period after the beginning of the new financial year. In majority of the cases, budgets were released after the lapse of 6-7 months. This was also the case with procurement of wheat for distribution, salary of the new appointed staff, and declaration of drought.

4.0 Coordination within Different Departments

The commission found evidences of lack of coordination when it comes to mitigate the drought or crises in Thar. This was also noticed at provincial level when the commission met with the secretaries of the different departments. For instance, we noticed that department of irrigation who is responsible for constructing the small wear buds and protection and water storage dams in Nagarparkar has constructed number of dams but the agriculture department was not even aware of the holding capacity of these structures leading to less than optimal planning and use of these facilities. We also observed that there are huge coordination gaps among TMAs, Pak Oasis, NGOs, and Public Health: they were not aware what each of them have done or what projects each of one are working on. There were even instances where Public Health and Pak Oasis Tube wells and RO wells were installed separately in the same village.

5.0 Water Supply:

Drinking water supply is the most acute problem in Tharparkar. Before the proliferation of RO plants, people had to rely on a pipeline carrying water from nearby barrage areas, in addition to dug wells, Hand Pumps, or tube wells, rainwater harvesting and storing in houses for drinking. The main form of rain-water harvesting in Tharparkar is the construction of tankas (underground storage tanks). There are more than six long distance ducts that carries barrage water through pipes to location remotest near to the border villages. We were informed that many of the duct lines are managed by ARMY and there are storage tanks on the way where common people have access to this water for drinking purpose. These duct system is in operation since last many years. **However, the pipeline between Kaloi and Diplo had been damaged during the heavy rains in 2011. This has not been repaired as yet,**

which clearly indicates the priority issue and government ignorance over its own investment done in the past.

The quality of water is also a matter of concern. In Tharparkar, water salinity is a problem and high fluoride content in drinking water is the cause of many health problems. The worst-off villages are those where the government supply of water has not reached, nor are there RO plants. People, especially women have to walk for up to 4-5 hours to get their supply of drinking water from the nearest government source or from dug well.

In 2014, the government of Sindh launched a drive to install RO plants across Tharparkar as a response to the drought and health emergency in the region. About Rs. 5 billion were spent or are being spent on the installation of these plants that are being managed by Pak Oasis - a private company. The company is getting 12 paisa per gallon as fee (we were told although did not see any legal document to confirm this claim) So far, 432 plants, out of planned 700, have been installed. 290 are functioning and 73 are non operational. We were also informed in the community meeting that villagers have to pay Rs 100 a month, per household, for their maintenance. The water from these plants is missing some minerals as people find its taste unpleasant. A laboratory test should be conducted to investigate this further. The small capacity plants (15000 gallon) run on solar energy has been found a solution to the drinking water. However, a large number of plants have gone out of order mostly because of poor maintenance and probably the quality of equipment.

Local residents also expressed their dismay over the location of the plants. They said the establishment of these plants was largely politically driven with concerned political parties favoring their own constituency when it came to the location of these plants. There are confirmed reports that no feasibility studies were conducted before launching the installation of these plants. Sindh Government officials told us that under those circumstances, it was not possible for them to conduct a feasibility study as there was no space for waste of time. We observed that even today there is no proper plans or feasibility study to find the accuracy of availability of water, quality of water and type of equipment needed.

Though during the course of our engagement, we were repeatedly told by local community that the pipeline water was better off, those in the government informed us that there is limited quantity of water available from source, and given the acute condition of drought, RO plants, despite the massive investment that went behind them, offer the best solution. Hence, in our view, following points are built in gaps in the maintenance of the RO plants in the long-term:

1. The report provided to us shows that there are total 372 RO plants have been installed out of 700 planned. We were also told that 61 are under commissioning process and will completed anytime this or next not. However, it is alarming to note that out of 372 RO plants installed 80 were non-operational, which makes 22 per cent of the total that has also taken huge funds for the project, which is not providing clean sweet water. This figure alone indicates either quality of the machines, or installation issues or capacity of the skill person is lacking. It requires further investigation.
1. There has been serious lack of proper planning about who is going to run these plans should a company contract ceases. There has no any mechanism or plan (or if there any it was not shared with commission) that commission could witness of such nature, hence the future maintenance of the huge investment is bound to fail.
2. The installation of small units with 15000 gallon water product per day is a **myth** and not true as being proposed of said. Also, the installation has not been done keeping in mind the depth of water strata, TDS, and quantity of water required for a particular location.
3. The commission witnessed the RO plants which were broken and needed repair even within six months of the fixing, and most of the plants which have completed a year or so have started creating mechanical and technical problems and hampering regular supply of water
4. The distribution of the RO plants is purely a political decision without considering the water factors and availability of the water. The classic example was of the RO installation in Taluka Diplo, where drinkable ground water is available at the depth of 20 feet. In these location the hand pumps would have been a better cost effective solution. The major reason for more number of RO plants non-functioning in Diplo Tahsil was because of the installation and allocation was not based on need. It was also evidence to note that out of 63 RO plants fixed 50%

were non-operational. This shows the urge and need was not measured or assessed before installation of such plants and investing such a huge cost (we assume)

5. The commission despite asking at several occasions was not provided the cost on each RO plants of 15000 gallon product each. Hence, it is difficult to assess and suggest the right approach for water development instead of RO.
6. However, the RO plants installed in the first phase with capacity of 75000 gallon product per day are functioning smoothly and have no major complaints from community.
7. Most RO plants are a great disaster in the making if proper and immediate action is not taken.

6.0 Food Crisis:

Affordable Food basket availability is obviously at the root of the entire crisis. There has been limited effort on the part of the government to address the gap in food access that is largely linked to the transformation of the Tharparkar economy from barter to cash based. Apart from the decline in agriculture production, people's access to essential food items such as milk and eggs, from their own livestock, has also decreased over the years because of the rise of cash economy in the region. People prefer selling those rather than using it for family consumption. Moreover, decline in vegetation has also directly affected availability of fodder for livestock that now has to be purchased.

There has never been any sustained social protection programme for the marginalized population of Tharparkar, nor zakat or baitul maal funds are directed their way, despite the extreme crisis of livelihood in the region. Moreover, the recent infrastructure development has not brought job creation to the region. Investors and contractors mostly bring their own human resources for such projects and the government makes no special requirement for them to hire local population. In the absence of any special measures such as ration cards, or subsidized availability of essential nutrients gained from items such as milk, wheat, rice, meat and eggs, it is unfair to expect a cash-stripped, livelihood deprived population to fend for itself.

6.1 Wheat Distribution:

The first letter requesting the requirements of wheat bags for the drought affectees at subsidized rates was forwarded by the DC Tharparkar to the Relief Commissioner on 13 Dec 2013. The same day, in a meeting the CM issued directions for distribution of wheat at subsidized rates of 50%.

However, the ACS Food moved the summary to Minister for Food for implementation of the CM's directions on 20 January 2014. The allocation of 60,000 wheat bags for distribution to the affected people by the Govt of Sindh was made on 24 Jan 2014. And the free distribution of wheat started on March 6, 2014 though the original decision was on 50% subsidized rate. The wheat distribution process was hampered further with huge issue of liabilities of the transportation charges that delayed the first process of the distribution of wheat bags. In total, 8 phases of wheat distribution have been completed with varied number of wheat bags and distributing private agents (called contractors or depot keeper). The wheat distribution inherited following:

1. The Total wheat distributed in Thar in 8 phases is 1045623 bags of 100 kg each. The last phase started in mid February 2016 and yet to be completed. It is surprising to note that as the free wheat distribution started the interest of people and contractors increased. Initially the Government started with less number of the wheat bags and through less number of the contractors (depot Keepers). But it progressed further the number of both bags of wheat and the number of depot keepers raised substantially. Also, there is no evidence that all the poor people who deserve this service have got the wheat. The report we were given also indicates huge differences between the beneficiary families on last 7 phases of wheat distribution and the last (8th) phase of the wheat distribution (144510 families in 7 phases and 181188 families in last 8th phase. This anomaly or possible forgery in increasing the number needs to be investigated further.
2. The wheat that has been received by a family amounts 400 kg over a period of 24 months for a family of six on an average. This means each family received .5 kg per day basis, this was not enough food that would have provided a family nutrition support exclusively.

3. The wheat distribution was done through the contractors who might have drain out an unimaginable quantity of wheat without being distributing to the end poor users
4. There were complaints that each beneficiary had to pay between Rs 100 to 200 for each 50 kg that he or she would receive from contractor.
5. There was no accurate data collection mechanism or verification mechanism that what number of CNIC copies that contractors brings would qualify for receiving the bags of wheat with approval of Mukhtiyarkar of the area.
6. The wheat was distributed without assessment of who is poor and affected and who is not. Even the richest persons got the wheat (sometime more than the poor). This factor alone created mis-trust between poor and rich.
7. The Contractor had also brought the CNIC photo copies of the members who were not staying in Thar but belong to Thar. There is likelihood that this was too mis-reported and used as a bribe.
8. The contractors mostly were from sitting government political activists favored by political leadership.
9. Hence in the commission's view, the wheat distribution was less a relief and more of a scam.

Secondly, the wheat distribution should have been replaced with **Ration Card** to the affected families only rather than to all at par.

7.0 Livestock

7.1 The Situation Tharparkar Livestock

The reserve stock of food and fodder is going to be finished any day now. Poor families are facing difficulty in getting the food as they do not have any livelihood sources in the area. Besides this the fodder situation is also expected to worsen in the coming days as the rate of fodder is increasing (by 40%-60%) day by day, meanwhile the prices for livestock is decreasing by 30%-50% due to malnutrition and weight loss. A goat worth PKR 10,000 is now being sold at a rate of PKR 6000 to 5500. According

to local estimates, as many as 150,000 sheep have already died or have been sold on throw away prices.

To our utmost surprise, the Livestock and Animal Husbandry Department has supplied feed with unknown quality in a 5 kg bag. This quantity is not enough for even one day. It has also been reported that the feed which has been supplied to Mithi warehouse actually weighs less than what is mentioned on the bag. They have purchased 58,000 bags of 5 kilo gram each. The feed has been provided from Karachi and secretary of the department is directly making procurement through non-branded companies. The feed supplied does not have any benefit for the livestock and did not make any impact. By the time, the bags reached beneficiaries, they weigh about 3 kg. In short, the current practice of providing feed for the livestock is a waste of government resources. The Honorable Court is humbly requested to ask a full inquiry on this particular aspect of relief operations as well as enforcing a more holistic relief and support strategy. **We visited a Taluka veterinary Hospital at Chachro and were ashamed off to be there. The building of the hospital was not even the worth of pass by. The veterinary medicine or drugs would occupy only half shelf of a steel 3'x4' almirah. This indicated the commitment of the department toward the livestock of Thar.**

7.2 Livestock Market Prices:

The rates of small ruminants decreased up to 30% to 50% as compared to October 2015 due to diseases and acute shortage of fodder.

The situation may get worse for livestock owners from the next month as the prices will decrease more due to the weaker conditions of livestock and also possible outbreaks of diseases.

The total population of livestock before drought was estimated 6.5 million out of which one-third of livestock has migrated, sold or died leaving behind 4.5 million cattle mainly sheep, goat, donkey and few cows. If these animals do not receive the fodder in the next couple of months and proper veterinary care then there are high chances that mortality in animals will increase by manifold.

7.3 Migration

It is experienced that in a normal year about 15%-20% poor families migrate towards barrage areas for casual labour and crop harvesting like wheat, sugar and rice but in drought year, about 35%-45% of population migrate towards barrage areas for same reason. Due to drought situation in 2013, and continuous then after about 25% families have migrated towards barrage areas for labour, harvesting of sugar and wheat crops in surrounding districts of Tharparkar, that is: Badin, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar and Tando Mohammed Khan.

About 60% of large animals (cows) had migrated to barrages since December 15 and further livestock migration occurred during the month of February 16 as at this moment, they are weaker in health and not able to migrate due to heatwave in desert area.

8.0 System of Declaration of Drought:

We were briefed by experts on the system of the declaration of drought. This is in addition to our observations from the briefing we received from the DC. Our conclusions about the system of the declaration of drought is based on these two interactions.

Droughts are announced under the Sindh Calamities Act 1958, which was adopted as a mirror legislation from the West Pakistan National Calamities (Prevention and Relief) Act 1958. The Act provides for the maintenance and restoration of order in areas affected by certain calamities and for the prevention and control of and relief against such calamities.

The Act was designed to provide "objective" criteria on which to base the declaration of droughts. In case of droughts, it includes observations on rainfall, assessment of crop production, and health and condition of livestock, among other factors. The Act is also designed with the underlying assumption that droughts are not a regular feature of Thar's environment.

Though a detailed analysis is beyond the scope of this report, the problem posed by dependence on the Calamities Act for the declaration of drought comes across quite clearly. For example, we were told that the rainfall patterns before 2013 did not point

out towards rainfall shortage as there were adequate rains in the monsoon season. However, the rain was spread across very limited period in 2012 and 2013 rather than over the entire monsoon period as is normally the case. Scientifically following the rainfall pattern led the authorities to dismiss the possibility of drought as the amount of rainfall was declared "sufficient". How wrong this strategy turned out to be is quite clear.

Cattle deaths and crop production are also taken as indicators for declaration of drought. Both are problematic because of the time lapse they entail. The assessment of land use requires that crops be close to harvest and since, in principle at least, each field has to be visited by the patwari, it becomes a long drawn out and time-consuming process, which can be started, at the earliest, in August. Because of this, the declaration of drought is often grievously delayed. The period from the beginning of the monsoon until the crops are harvested is also the period of maximum distress, since by then people have exhausted whatever little stocks they might have had from previous years.

Experts also shared that the declaration of a drought also involves politics and there are various ways in which the criteria of the Calamities Act can be subverted.

9.0 Priority and focussed investment and resource allocation:

After visiting the area and meeting with so many stakeholder, the commission found that priorities are missing at each stage. It was observed that huge expenditure has been done from the Government funds as a reaction to the situation arose or addressing the media and other reports complaints rather than having a comprehensive plan and strategy to undertake the projects mitigating the current crisis. Though the investment in the Thar Coal sector has been well planned and done accordingly to the need of the project. In our opinion the government has not prioritized long-term solutions to mitigate drought in any department. Though because of the crises the health system and its infrastructure has improved from what it was three year before. Due to poor planning a substantial amount from the Government funds (about 10 billion) have been used on distribution of wheat and hasty installation of RO plants. Both these activities with their huge expenditures and future liabilities have not

created the job opportunities proportionate to the investment. Had these funds been used effectively the positive impacts would have been tremendous.

9.1 Financial analysis : An Overview:

Schemes featured In Annual Development Plan 2015-16: Pertinent questions

- In the head of Rural Development, three tubewell schemes have been marked costing Rs 132,000 million in all. Out of this, Rs 87.089 million have been spent since the launch of these schemes in 2014. To restrict rural development to merely tube-well installations is a contentious idea. While they figure elsewhere, we would like to point out the rural development is linked with natural environment, social well being and promoting conditions of economic well being. These could stretch to land policy, natural resource management, education, basic health and infrastructure. We see this completely missing from allocation for rural development in the ADP.
- Water schemes for Thar Coal at the cost of Rs 22,422 million were approached in 2014-15. Out of this Rs 12,861 million have been spent. Other development schemes such as airport at Islamkot is costing Rs 1659.915million, water masterplan for Thar coalfield has a cost of Rs 787.130mn. Other related expenses such as construction of road from Islamkot to Singharo comes at a price of Rs 202.774mn and repair and renovation of residential colony and office building of camp office of Sindh Coal Authority is priced at Rs 337.815mn.
- If these figures are added up – and these do not even form a comprehensive list of expenses on Thar Coal development – these go up to several billions of rupees. This is compared to the fact that the Thar Coal Development Project has very limited involvement of the locals whether at the level of labourers, contractors, or even beneficiaries from a boost in the local economies (through sales of local products). There is absolutely no provision for local employment from any of the companies that are involved in Thar Coal development. The government has not opened any skill development centre to train local labour force to participate in the massive project. Locals would actually end up paying the price by way of land eviction or receiving pollutant air

because of coal development. We would want to point to the need for a thorough report from the government on the impact of Thar Coal development on the local economy, environment and development of the indigenous population of Tharparkar.

- Taking the point of development of local economy forward, if we look at the component of development of livestock and fisheries, two schemes namely "Establishment of Disease Control of Livestock in Sindh" and "Generation and Development of Effective Vaccines to prevent Recurring infections of Newcastle disease" are two items marked for schemes pertaining to more than one districts. These will be established in Badin, Khairpur, SBA, Tharparkar and Karachi. Out of the total budget allocation of Rs 229.577mn, Rs 54.435mn have been released (less than a quarter). One doesn't need to elaborate, but it does reflect the priorities of the Sindh government towards local social development and promoting livelihoods of the local population.
- In terms of Minorities Affairs, the Sindh Government, as other governments, have always focused on repair of religious worship places or cemeteries and graveyards. A budget allocation of Rs 99.063mn has been made for all of Sindh, out of which only Rs 3.281mn have been released. There is no trace of essential components of the improvement of the conditions of minorities communities by way of measures such as livelihoods, education, social security support for the economically poor, access to legal aid, and other areas promoting inclusion. Being home to the biggest majority of Hindu community population, that also happens to be extremely vulnerable in terms of economic and social security, we urge the Sindh Government to revise its definition of "Minorities Affairs" and make it more inclusive.
- In terms of social well being and environment, there is visible very limited range of programmes on top of extremely inadequate release of funds. For eg. "Sustainable Land Management Project" to combat desertification in Sindh (for Tharparkar, Umerkot and Sanghar) has been allocated Rs 200.400mn, out of which not a single penny has been spent. Schemes related to skill development for the youth present a similar picture. A "Mobile Skill Development Unit" for the underprivileged youth, approved back in 2011, was allocated a

sum of Rs 15mn, out of which Rs0.140mn have been spent so far. A STEVTA scheme of Rs 3482.741mn has an expenditure of Rs 110.429mn only. This further strengthens our argument that development of the Sindh province is in no way approached from the perspective of development of its people.

- In the education sector in Tharparkar, there are eight schemes concerning construction of new schools, upgradation of established schools and rehabilitation of damaged school buildings plus reconstruction of school buildings declared as "dangerous". All these together have an estimated cost of Rs 213.444mn. None of these schemes have been approved as a result that no action has been taken to improve the school infrastructure in Tharparkar. On the other hand, establishment of a Cadet College at Mithi has been approved costing Rs 491.097 million (more than double to combined amount required to restore existing schools).
- In a list of "Dangerous Buildings" given to us by the Office of the Taluka Education Officer Primary Male (Schools) Islamkot, 95 school buildings in Islamkot alone are categorized as "dangerous". Out of these 44 schools are closed because of the poor condition of the buildings. Another 145 schools need repair. One would think that emergency measures would be taken by the Sindh Government to restore these buildings. However, instead the Sindh Government has left unapproved every single proposal for the restoration of dangerous buildings in Tharparkar. This is nothing but a crime against the people of Tharparkar.
- Featuring in the list of unapproved projects, is also a scheme For Iron Therapy for Anemic Women. Hundreds of women and children have either lost their lives or continue to struggle with poor health due to iron deficiency or anemia. And the Sindh Government does not think that providing iron therapy is a priority. (see page 14 of the ADP document).

10. Frequent Transfer and Posting:

It was observed that frequent transfers were the norms in the district particularly of the key positions being held. In particular, we met 6th deputy commissioner who was recently posted since the crises started in 2014. This alone gave the impression that

there was no single officer who can be made responsible for what went right or wrong during the crisis. Along with that four DHOs, four Civil Hospital's MS, Assistant Commissioners except one in Islamkot, Mukhtiarkars, and other officers were transferred or retired leaving behind no memory of what had happened during these couple of years.

The report further notes frequent transfers at all levels particularly in the Board of Revenue Department, Health Department, the Commissioner Office, and Deputy Commissioner office including assistant commissioners at subdivision level. These transfers pertain to officers from BS 17 ranks to BS 21 ranks. The short stay by all these officials in the district and at the higher level created non responsive attitude and signaled the lapse during the crises. Many of the officers came and retired from the post while waiting for their retirement age. The transfer and posting of Town Officers across the towns committees of Thar are the worst case of misusing the funds and corruption as reported.

11.0 Summary Findings from Public Meetings

11.1 Public meetings

During the public and media meetings held at various places, the people shared their experience of working in the area as well as through drought seasons. An overall picture of development in Tharparkar was also presented.

Water, healthcare, education and disaster response were the four most important agenda points discussed at the meeting. It was shared that water is the biggest issue of district. While ad hoc measures such as Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants, and before that, a pipeline supply of water have been provided, there is no solid strategy to address water crisis in the region. A suggestion was made to provide water through ducts from the nearby irrigation channels, rather than through RO plants. The water supplied from the RO plants comes with a set of problems such as poor taste, irregular maintenance, control of one person, and allegations of corruption.

In terms of healthcare, people present unanimously suggested over the gaps present in the healthcare system that have become life-threatening for the local community. They emphasized that a mapping of pregnant women and under 5s is extremely important to understand the extent of healthcare deficit in the region. Moreover, health-

care communication system linking villages is also weak and has contributed to the recent crisis. Civil society organizations also shared that behind the Thar region's underdevelopment is a progressive decline in access to education. Despite a budget of Rs 3.5bn dedicated to education, the school dropout rate is disturbingly stark. Starting from 190,000 children enrolled in the primary education, only 22,000 stay till matriculation. At the higher level, only 300 are left. The education profile of the district shows dismay picture. The commission observed that there are 114 boys' middle Schools and 15 girl's middle schools in the District. There are 4033 Primary Schools out of which 3428 are boy's schools and 605 girl's primary schools in the district. There are 6192 teachers out of which 4726 are male and 545 are female teachers and 718 is the total number of non teaching staff. **Out of total 563 schools are non functional, out of that 335 are boys and 227 are girls schools almost 45 percent in case of girls. There are 989 vacant posts of teachers in the district.**

The public representative present highlighted that access, coordination, cooperation, and affordability are the four pillars of effective humanitarian intervention in the region. They said that at the beginning of the crisis, there was limited understanding on the part of the government to respond to the issue. This was mostly due to the poor state presence in and commitment to the development of the region. Any intervention was further restricted by the absence of resources – probably coming from the government's tendency to delay action over a crisis. As a result, even the vehicles for a mapping exercise and referrals was sought from the NGOs. A Volunteer Forum was also formed with membership from civil society organisations, mainly aimed at advising the government over handling of the crisis.

The local people observed that weak government presence in the region, the continued crisis and the marginalization of the poor has resulted in the weakening of the social fabric in Tharparkar.

11.2 Meeting with Press

The commission met press at all the locations it visited. The Press Club members, after formal introductions, shared their views on the crisis. According to media members, there are two problems associated with the Thar's characteristic as a desert: its border with India, due to which the state of Pakistan has always treated it with suspi-

cion and kept the region under-developed. The roads, electricity and water supply and healthcare infrastructure have been a very recent development. Secondly, the region's economy is heavily dependent on rains. As 95 percent of the population is associated with farming, the absence of rains is translated into absence of livelihoods. With massive growth of population in the region, the negative impacts of drought has turned manifold.

Media members also criticized the government narrative that the phenomenon of migration is traditional in Tharparkar. They said that migration happens only when rains don't take place. The population, mostly as family set ups including women, moves to the barrage area. At the barrage area too, human rights violations are a regular phenomenon. They emphasized that in Rajasthan, in neighboring India, same desert conditions exist. However, the population is not under any kind of distress because of the pro-people policies and actions of the state

Media persons also pointed out that despite crisis of huge proportion, there was no presence of the NDMA in the region. They said that being media personnel, they are in a position to know of developments in the region, and they strongly believe that the death toll due to the health crisis is much higher than officially reported. "Government merely gets the figures from the hospitals. No figures from deaths outside the hospitals or at homes are accounted for." According to their information, 40 children are referred to the Mithi Civil Hospital every day.

The media community also pointed to the damage done by the shortage of health-care professionals in the region. They said that according to their reports, 300 posts of doctors are lying vacant. Moreover, there is no lady doctor in the Tehsil. Till last year, there was no specialist for children.

The reporters present at the meetings also shared information about wheat distribution as disaster response in the region. They said that rather than executing distribution through Deputy Commissioner's office, wheat is being provided to the community through local *thekedars* (contractors), having affiliation with the ruling political party of the province. This is seen as a way of securing votes and also denying community members supporting the opposition, from benefitting from their due share of government relief.

Media members disagreed with the idea of RO-plants. They felt that these plants were a political project and many have stopped functioning within a year of installation, reflecting poor maintenance. They also said that third party verification is missing from the project.

12.0 document Reviews:

12.1 Government Relief Efforts:

Though drought is a provincial subject, the federal government is required to play its role, which presently is not visibly seen. Specifically, the finances for dealing with a drought are to be provided mainly by the federal government. The federation has one body for dealing with "calamities" such as droughts, floods, earthquakes etc. This is National Disaster Management Authority. It has Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) along with Relief Commissioner and PDMA. However, the case of the recent drought in Tharparkar illustrates the deficits in the functioning of federal body as well as inadequacies in the relief operations on account of political rivalries, corruption and poor governance.

Wheat distribution is the most favoured exercise by the government aimed at disaster relief. Tons of wheat bags are distributed everytime in case of droughts as well as other calamities like floods or displacement. In Tharparkar, we heard complaints of unfair distribution and also the nomination of local political workers as contractors assigned to further the distribution exercises. As per procedure, this job belongs to the Relief Commissioner. People expressed their dissatisfaction over the existing method and felt that those not supporting the ruling party were discriminated against.

NGOs are also approached to carry out relief exercises, especially for mapping exercises, the delivery of services, and rehabilitation of the affectees. We were briefed by community persons that though NGOs have been a strong part of Tharparkar's social and political order, and a wide range of initiatives had been undertaken by them – from income generation programmes, to environment conservation and water harvesting, education - an overall vision guiding their intervention is missing. Their project based tendency also hampers their effectiveness as lack of availability of funds for non project undertakings prevent them from assisting the community.

There is also an issue regarding accountability, as being non governmental entities they are more answerable to their funders rather than their constituency.

In Tharparkar, drought is a recurring phenomenon and causing multiple adverse impacts. In order to cater this natural phenomenon, what is required is drought preparedness and mitigation focusing more on areas such as drought prediction, monitoring, impact assessment and a response plan. Besides, this disaster is to be mitigated by proposing a socio economic uplift plan of the Tharparkar keeping context of drought through a well defined development strategy.

Currently, the government focuses more on the relief efforts and ensuring the supply of wheat and food items to the drought affectees, which neither reduces the impact of drought over vegetation, livestock and people rather create a dependent syndrome. Rather, it requires a paradigm shift from the current emphasis of drought relief to the efficient management of the available resources, and socio economic development coordinated through an institutional arrangement (**Thar Development Authority**) governed by a independent Board of Governors headed by Chief Executive of the Province.

This commission deliberates on the strategies and issues relating to the current crisis coming out of absence of drought mitigation and management system. The Thar Commission focuses on identifying gaps and suggests the needs for creating institutional linkages and arrangement to manage the present crisis in the futuristic. Initially, the commission feels that it needs to be defined the kinds of crisis, history of such crisis (droughts) in Tharparkar, and its impact on poor residents of the area. The commission wishes to deliberate at length strategies for crisis management and the focus would be on tapping existing water resources and improving them as well. The commission is suggesting new avenues and methods to enhance cultivation output through modern techniques, which may be used as the policy guidelines. The commission then proposes in detail the issue of food security and relief management, Health and nutrition of the Thar base community as the priority is also deliberated on it in detail. Livestock is the major source of income of the people of Tharparkar; hence the commission has gone into detailed discussions and suggests the issues vaccination and livestock, prevention from diseases, improvement of breeding and other animal husbandry practices including establishing sanctuaries.

The commission has viewed and discussed briefly the affects of drought, and would suggest on drought mitigation measures including early warning system and post disaster need plan with especial focus on the important issue of food security. Sectoral response and the institutional linkages is yet a grey area commission observed in respect of pre, during and post disaster scenario of drought. Hence, it requires institutional coordination and clear roles of various sectors. Therefore, the commission is of the view to propose on constituting various committees and teams to affectively monitor and manage crises. The commission also deliberates on checks and accountability mechanism over the teams and committees along with officials assigned the task of relief operation. The commission briefly highlights the funding provision to meet the crisis and relief related expenditures. Finally, the report recommends managing crisis through infrastructure development and various development schemes to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people of Tharparkar.

13. Official Delegations Visits and Related Issues

The commission observed that there has been huge influx of official delegates visiting Thar since first crises reported in Media. The delegates included as High as president of Pakistan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chief Minister of Sindh, Ministers, MPAs, special designate legislature as coordinators, Secretaries of the several department and many others. There has been number of the official announcement made during their visits such as creating **Thar Development Authority** and drafting a **Thar drought policy**, creation of University (s) and others. However, we have not seen the follow up mechanism to either implement or action being taken on the orders passed by such competent authorities. Also, these visits would have taken large sum of resources and management time to arrange such high profile meetings and visits would have lead to much expected results by now.

14. Understanding Drought

The commission noticed that Thar presently exhibits drought like situation that too was confirmed by all stakeholders we met. Therefore, the commission was of the view that Government should immediately announce the drought and plans its action in the context of the current crises. As far as the nature of drought in the Tharparkar is concerned; it is the central part of socio-economic conditions, where food for

human and fodder for livestock shortage is an issue; the cause of it may not be of less precipitation or more or average but matter of the fact is that three things that warrant drought had not happen as per the need of the people - food, fodder, and water recharge in the wells. This is multiplied with the lack of financial resources that distorts the purchasing power of the people. Hence, there has always been a tug of war between the demand and supply of food items which in fact aggravates the problem especially the food basket that is needed as complete or partially nutritious. In absence of the proper timely rains, agriculture sector receives a great setback and people are deprived of millet, water and fodder for their livestock. If the dry spell extends for a longer period, it results in human and livestock mortality and damages economic fabric and fragility. The same happened in the remote past in a colonial era in Tharparkar in 1899 when the drought was followed by a famine and hundreds of people died.

15 History of Drought in Tharparkar

In Thar, drought is a recurring phenomenon and causing adverse impacts on the socio-economic life of the people of district Tharparkar. The traces of this menace are also found in the colonial era when in the years 1899 it affected district Tharparkar badly. The history reveals that in Thar, drought is often followed by a famine and causes human and economic losses. Moreover, it also affects the demographic balances in a form of migration to find economic opportunities. After independence and in mid fifties, this menace of drought hit Tharparkar in 1956 which is known in the history of Sindh as *Chappno*. Later in late sixties and seventies, again this fatal disaster hit district Tharparkar in the year 1968 and 1978. It was not an end to the catastrophe and just after a span of seven years; drought again returned to the district and stretched for consecutive three years from 1985-1987. Nature had no sympathy for this backward area and the drought revisited district Tharparkar in the late nineties. In 1997, the area of Tharparkar had to confront another dry spell and situation worsened in the years 1998, 2000 and 2001. It was a cycle of full five years which had severely affected the livelihood of people of Thar.

Though the people of Tharparkar are accustomed to the cruel treatment of nature for ages, but the drought of 2013-14 hit them hard and continues to till date. This time they had to confront various issues other than scarcity of food. Lack of timely precipi-

tation deprived them of probable cultivation; hence the consequences were economic loss. Besides, severe cold aggravated health scenario and caused casualties of hundreds of small children. It was not an end to the disaster, the continuous dry spell prolonged over months questioned the availability of fodder for the livestock which is the main source of livelihood for people of Thar. Spread of diseases among livestock especially sheep and goats were unprecedented and high death toll of livestock broke the back bone of population surviving on livestock. All these issues should have compelled government of Sindh to intervene systemically rather on temporary and adhoc basis to manage as well as mitigate crisis.

16. Affects of Current Crisis

The consequences of drought have always been fatal and it affects both human and animals altogether. In addition, it also effects the environment on the whole. The severe drought results into prolong malnutrition of children and mothers in particular and deaths of old age people and livestock. It also leads to the spread of diseases because people are incapable of buying food basket for their selves during drought due to financial constraints. Hence nutritional status also worsens. Since the (70 percent an estimates) people in Tharparkar live below the poverty line, they cannot have required nutrition support. Erratic precipitation results into reduction in resources of drinking and crop cultivable-water. Hence the ground water table declines. Another aspect or the consequence of drought is social disruption due to inter-regional migration. The loss of livelihood forces people to migrate along with their families and animals. Due to the scarcity of resources, inflation rates also increases. Environmental degradation is another troublesome aspect of the drought caused by the erosion of soil, water and atmosphere through the deaths of livestock and human beings. The last, but not the least, impact of drought is the desertification.

B. STRATEGIES FOR CURRENT CRISIS MANAGEMENT (MITIGATION MEASURES)

In order to mitigate crises in Thar, the policy emphasis should be on tapping new water resources and improving the existing one. Besides, it is high time to tap the huge amount of saline water lying underground in different layers and depth with varied aquifers. Reverse osmosis plants and desalination of the saline water be an appro-

priate policy to provide water for both human and livestock/land consumption. This strategy has to be followed by the socio-economic development and improving health conditions of the people. Following interventions are the eminent strategies to manage drought:

- 1. Proper Water Resource Management**
- 2. Promoting Agriculture Based on Sweet & Saline Water**
- 3. Socio Economic Development**
- 4. Food Security and Relief Management**
- 5. Focus on Health and Nutrition and Population control**
- 6. Investment In Quality Education Specially Women**
- 7. Livestock Improvement**

1. Proper Water Resource Management

Water is life and it is a precious commodity for the Tharparkar. The government has to focus not only on tapping new water resources but to use the available resources in an efficient manner to make a best use of this precious commodity. For this purpose the first and foremost requirement is the availability of the water data which may be obtained by establishing a water management board.

1.1. Establishment of Water Management Board: This board will not only collect data regarding the availability of water resources in desert but would explore the new avenues. The same board would also give suggestion about improving existing water resources. Public health engineering department, local government, P&D, SIDA & Irrigation department will have to play a vital role in this respect. This board should be assisted by either local or foreign water experts.

1.2. Water Related Projects: The development schemes in the Tharparkar should focus on the provision of water related projects such as constructing Tarais, dug wells, small dams, check dams, provision of providing solar pumps etc to effectively manage surface and underground water. More over the Sindh Water management project has the huge funding and has the strat-

egies to conserve water for irrigation needs to be directed to Thar specially Nagarparkar area not only to save water but better increase the area under cultivation.

1.3. Submersible Solar Pumps: Solar pumps are required to be provided in those areas where the sweet water is available but there is no provision of electricity. This will add to the availability of water for drinking purpose and would facilitate the cause of cultivation also.

1.4. Providing Irrigation Water to Tharparkar: It is high time that the people of Tharparkar should be facilitated by providing water through a canal system. And for this purpose, the irrigation department government of Sindh should come up with a development scheme either funded by the government of Sindh or by the federal government. In this regard, extension of Reni canal or the Makkhi Farash canal which is planned to provide irrigation water to the Umerkot may be considered.

1.5. Desalination / Reverse Osmosis Plants: The Sindh Coal Authority initiated the installation of RO plants in District Tharparkar in 2004-05 fixing four plants with each capacity of 40000 to 100000 gallons per day each of product water. After successful results additional 86 (some of them are still in progress) RO plants of larger capacity running on Dessel operated Generators. Of these total some of them are being now converted to Solar energy. These RO plants have been installed in 7 years. The O&M is again given to Pak Oasis a private company on contract basis. It sounded that these plants were installed with planning and cost incurred on them could be ascertained. The two large size RO plants one each at Mithi (2million GDD capacity and 1.5 Million GD capacity) and Islamkot have been installed are now operation. The total cost incurred while fixing these plants is around Rs 935 million. The irony of the system is such that TMAs do not have capacity for distribution of the product water claimed in the document. Neither it was thought before the installation of such expensive plants. The policyfocus is to be on desalination and installing reverse osmosis plant at a larger level to provide sweet drinking water to the people of Tharparkar. A huge quantity of underground water is

available in Thar, and if well planned desalination plants are installed through a development scheme, the people of Thar would be able to get benefit (as in the case of above mentioned Thar Coal plants) from that water and it be used for both human and animal use.

2. Promoting Agriculture Based on Sweet & Saline Water

The occurrence of drought is essentially linked with the vulnerability and non availability of water in the area. There are strong pocket of usable water and quality land specially close to the eastern border with India where the ground water can be extracted from suitable depth irrigate land for crops suitable to the climate. The major points to be considered to convert Tharparkar are following:

2.1. Surveying Existing Water Resources: Without proper survey of the available water resources and its quality it is difficult to ascertain as well as address the issue of demand and supply of water. Hence detailed survey is required in which the demand of water for the whole Thar is required to be ascertained. And it will include the research on areas such as availability of water, saline water and its possible use, beds of old rivers, underground water reservoirs and its useful extraction. In few areas of Tharparkar especially in Chachro, there are few pockets where the sweet water is available fifty feet underground. This precious water has to be tapped only for drinking water and sand mining of any nature shall be stopped to avoid the destruction of sweet water aquifer. This can be further strengthen by clearing the water ways and restoring there natural rain water storage water body. It is ironic that the road construction on one side has been facilitating the local population by linking them with main towns but at the same time such development is destroying the natural rain water ponds and body by excavating the clay soil for compacting the roads.

2.2. Establishing a Saline Water Research Institute: Saline water research institute is the need of a day for Tharparkar which is always confronted with the issue of less precipitation. This institute will suggest how to use saline wa-

ter for the cultivation purpose and what type of plants are required to be grown in Tharparkar, keeping in view the soil as well as environment.

2.3. Establishing Arid / Barani Agriculture Institute: In the Thar, the policy emphasis requires a paradigm shift from rain-fed agriculture to a hybrid agriculture techniques. This will be possible by establishing Arid/Barani agriculture institute that trains locals to cultivate crops that survive in less or saline water. The institute will focus on areas such as crop breeding, agronomy, soil science, horticulture, plant protection, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics and statistics to carry out the research work. The institute would help in introducing new industrial & food plants along with preservation and processing agricultural products. Institute will also conduct research on genetic improvement of crop varieties.

2.4. Introducing Desert Friendly Plantation & Grasses: There is a need to introduce new plants and grasses in the desert that can survive in less or saline water and would be a source of food for livestock. Moreover the policy focus in the Tharparkar area should be on introducing drought resistant varieties of seeds that have a short ripening period.

3. Socio Economic Development in Thar

The current crises can be overcome by the government focus on mitigating the impacts of drought through a relief driven strategy which is required to be supplemented or assisted by a development strategy. Hence, focus ought to be on development strategy to work for the socio economic uplift of the people. In this regard efforts should be on capacity building of the people not only to confront the disasters or the risks but to fetch economic opportunities for their selves.

3.1. Establishing Thar Development Authority: This authority will work as an institutional arrangement for future development of Tharparkar. This authority will work for the overall economic growth of the desert. The core function of the authority is to work on water resources, research on water issues, developing infrastructure in respect of water projects, preparing development

schemes for the socio economic uplift of the people. And, the capacity building of the people to enable them to fetch economic or job opportunities for their selves. Poverty alleviation programs and financial assistance through a drought card might or Food Ration Card be a feasible option also that could be executed through this authority after conducting proper survey and need assessment etc.,

3.2. Poverty Reduction Strategy: Poverty alleviation is necessary in Tharparkar. Economic uplift of these people is not possible without providing economic opportunities to them. They are required to be trained in various skills to begin with their own small business. They should be imparted technical training in various fields to become an entrepreneur. They ought to be given loans through micro credit financing. Agricultural Development and Industrial base would also enable people to come out of poverty nexus.

3.3. Capacity Building of the People: Economic prosperity is certainly linked with education. Educated youth has more chances of fetching economic opportunities than the uneducated one. The education policy for the Thar should focus on establishing technical institute and the campuses of engineering and medical universities in Tharparkar. The youth specially girls are required to be trained in the area which has importance or having a demand locally as well as out of Thar. To address this there is huge potential and willingness of local population to send their girls to education provided a Thar context tailored policy is made and implemented to harness that potential.

3.4. Promoting local Products / Handicrafts: While promoting local produce the government emphasis should be on providing direct linkages to the producer to the market so that the artisan may get a fair price by avoiding a middle man or exploitative rates. The local producers may be assisted in the areas such as marketing, designing, finance and managerial skills.

4. Food Security and Relief Management:

Response through emergency food aid helps to save lives but not livelihood. The present crisis should become a turning point to shift from emergency food aid to disaster risk management and long-term solution diverting on strategy to address food insecurity. Following long-term measures are required to be adopted to deal with the issue of food insecurity:

4.1. Addressing Issue of Food Insecurity: Through food security strategy which includes productive safety net (**subsidized food to poor on Ration Card of food swap card**), introduction of improved agricultural technology and emphasis on water development and harvesting, the poor people of Thar would be more secure. Provision of subsidized loans to develop their water resource base to cultivate the lands and grow off rain fed food including the development of small scale horticulture and fodder for livestock.

4.2. Making a Food Bank: In each drought, the first and foremost demand that arises is the immediate requirement of food. Since the food is always in short supply and becomes expensive it disrupts balanced food intake of families - some families stop eating lunch altogether. Hence, it creates a demand for the availability of food in bulk on a subsidized rates or affordable rates or on the loans with no interest. Thus, the probable option is the creation of a food banks or Utility stores in each union council. This food bank will not only meet the demand of the people but of the livestock also. Food department, Relief department / PDMA and livestock department has to contribute for this food bank.

4.3 Warehousing Facilities: This is a completely neglected area and policy focus should be on constructing warehouses or the floss pans and the cold storages in each sub division of the district. This will help in proper maintenance of relief goods.

5. Health and Nutrition.

The present crisis in district Tharparkar exposed health and nutrition situation. Special attention is required to focus on vertical program in the health sector.

Besides, special attention should be given to the diseases like TB, Pneumonia, hepatitis, Malnutrition, etc. The issues of children and neonatal problems were also exposed largely. Hence, there is a requirement of appointing more pediatricians, specialist, and gynecologists to cater a thick population of district Tharparkar, specially covering each Union council, BHU, RHC hospital, Taluka Hospital and District Hospital.

5.1. Infrastructure Up gradation: Existing infrastructure of health sector in district Tharparkar also required to be upgraded. Hence, DHQ, RHC, Operation/Delivery Theatres, Labor rooms, Nursery, CCU's ought to be upgraded. For this purpose, apart from the government funding or sources, NGO'S, philanthropists and foreign donors may also be consulted.

5.2.Thar Specific Health Policy: For the Tharparkar government need to devise a separate recruitment and the administrative policy. In recruitment only those people are preferred who belong to the area and their availability should be ensured through a tenure posting. The policy can offer flexible terms of stay particularly the specialists based on specified period of rotation and implementing out of box solutions: The incentive to double the package could be one as remotest he or she is posted more the incentive could be, offer non-practicing allowance at a level to compensate to the earning he/she other wise earns from their private practice, provision of suitable furnished accommodation, separate management or administration. The experiences suggest elsewhere that these kind of incentives would always work and professional will be waiting for the turn to be posted in Thar.

5.3. Establishing Nursing School & Paramedics Training Institute:while discussing with general public, elected representatives, officials, it was realized that apart from the availability of the Doctors, there is a need of more nurses (both male and female) as well as other paramedic staff. Hence to meet the issue of demand and supply of such services, there is a dire need of establishing Nursing School and Paramedics Institute at each Taluka of the district.

5.4. Deployment of Postgraduate Trainees at Civil Hospital Mithi: The health department government of Sindh may take up the case with the medical universities such as DOW or LUMHS etc to bind the post graduates trainees specially those who belong to Tharparkar and proximity districts to spend some part of their training period as well service after their post graduation at Tharparkar. This will provide an opportunity to the young doctors to learn from the expertise and experience of the post graduate doctors which will certainly contribute to the better health care of the poor patients.

5.5. Availability of Mobile Health Units for First Aid and Transportation Purpose: The present continuous crises also highlighted the weakness of the health system especially in context of providing initial treatment as well transporting patients to the main health facility. Lot of casualties both women and children occur at the goth or village level. Hence, what is required is the availability of the mobile health units to work across the desert areas in the time of need. These units may be procured either by government or through donors both local and international.

5. 6. Conservation of Livestock

Live stock is the main source of earning in district Tharparkar. And the sector has less or no priority from the department or from the government. The count of livestock in Tharparkar is around 7 million estimates. The dry spell not only affects the human beings but the livestock also. Hence it affects the whole economy of the affected region. The main focus of the livestock policy would be on timely vaccination and adding veterinary facilities in each union council with a qualified vet. The fodder security for the livestock is also required to be worked out. It is pertinent to mentioned here that the livestock department sounded as redundant from the area and has no plan to invest or improve the services benefiting the livestock herd owners. The department's capacity is minimal and lacks technical skills at district level.

6.1. Fodder Bank: The general perception from the commission met highlighted the need for creating a fodder bank or the provision of fodder on subsidized rates for animals. The establishment of fodder bank may support the livestock in the crisis time subsidized basis. Sprinkling of grass seeds in the monsoon may add to the provision of fodder for the livestock. At the drinking wells, at the livestock grazing area, or at the Gao Charr lands, establishment of vaccination centre and fodder bank would promote well being of the livestock.

6.3. Veterinary Training Institute at Mithi or at Chachro: Since the livelihood of people depends on livestock, they should be trained in the issues such as breeding, health care, diseases and marketing of the livestock. This requires establishing a veterinary training institute at Mithi.

6.4. Declaration of Drought: Drought monitoring requires to be commenced from May and the first alert should come on the 15th of June. If the rain does not come at all or if the amount of precipitation is very low and the situation continues till August then the government may declare drought on the 15 of August. The commissioner of the division in consultation with the PDMA, meteorological department and the respective DDMA headed by the deputy commissioner of the district may declare a calamity/drought in the district and make preparations for the relief measures.

6.5. Identifying Drought Hit Areas: Soon after declaration of the drought in the district, the administration through the institutional support provided through various committees begin to identify the areas that are hit badly by the drought to arrange for relief accordingly. For this purpose revenue department will require to extend its support in coordination of local and international non government organizations.

6.6. Identifying the Most Vulnerable Population: After identifying the affected areas, the next important task is to find out or identify the most vulnerable population which is badly hit by drought and requires immediate relief. The most vulnerable people are those who lose their assets, crop, and lives-

lock and become penniless; thus incapable of buying food items for their selves. the most vulnerable may also include those who are socially deprived, isolated & physically weak.

9. FUNDING PROVISION

There has to be reserve fund (around a billion a year) created as part of the Thar package on an annual basis and proceeds of the fund could be used in small emergencies such as fire, seasonal outbreak of which there is no line item budget for this. These funds shall be either managed by Thar Development Authority or by the Provincial Government in a secure and through a profitable instrument.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are drawn from the Commission's own observations from the situation of Tharparkar, in addition to interactions with stakeholders and review of the work of the experts. These may be extended further by consulting more concerned actors, especially from the donor agencies, development and healthcare sectors. In addition to this, multi-sectoral role is essential to address the crises, and for this purpose there has to be a close liaison between the PDMA/DDMA with the departments such as revenue, health, food, livestock, agriculture, population welfare, and irrigation. This task has to be done by formulating various committees or teams that include experts from the fields of development, town planning, service delivery, forestation and natural resources or technocrats of the respective departments or organizations.

Constituting a Monitoring team is a Must: a monitoring team needs to be constituted at the provincial level having representation of the department such as Health, Food, Livestock, Irrigation and Meteorology department and members from out of government. The members of the respective departments of a committee will work on their respective areas of concern and will submit their findings to the chief minister through chief secretary for necessary action as per findings. The committee should also be made responsible to assess the losses and damages in the situations like the present one. In the absence of transparency and accountability mechanisms, it is hard to fix the responsibility, let alone finding out the facts. The monitoring committee has to develop its Terms of Reference approved by the CM, which shall produce a comprehensive report on quarterly basis.

CHECKS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM: Sectoral response through monitoring committee will be bound to certain checks and balances. Each time committee will have to submit its findings or suggestions to the chief minister through chief secretary of the province. The administrative secretaries in case of any inefficiency delay or neglect in respect of relief operations by their respective staff will fix responsibility and convey the same to the chief secretary for necessary action.

Moreover, the Commission also proposes the following major recommendations:

1. Transfer and postings of the Officers: All the important positions of grade 18 and above should have tenure basis. Frequent transfers and postings should be as these risk voided accountability and monitoring of public servants. This is in particular relevant in the times of crises. It is also strongly recommended that the vacant positions in all service providing departments in Thar be filled immediately with very competent officer suitable to the job they have to perform. This task can not be achieved without feeling the urgency. The new recruitment or posting has to be considered on merit with revised difficult area allowance to motivate officers to join and perform their duties.

2. Health Care and social protection:

2.1 The focus of healthcare need to be preventive care. A robust family planning and reproductive healthcare network is extremely important to establish in the region. Moreover, the number of healthcare workers need to be increased in proportion with the size of the population. The local dispensaries need to be equipped with proper staff including highly trained professionals. This may help the communities a great deal in preventing minor healthcare problems from becoming major illnesses.

2.2 The availability of merely fourteen ambulances for a population of 1.3 million is totally incomprehensible. It is highly recommended that a network of ambulance is established that should specifically focus on covering distant areas. Those requiring emergency care should have easy and ready access to such services through specialized transportation.

2.3 There is a serious need to impose Essential Services Act to compel government doctors to move to and perform their duties in Tharparkar. It is unacceptable for doctors on Sindh Government payroll to refuse work in the region because of "inconveniences". Those who violate their professional oath should not only be dismissed, they should be fined and blacklisted. Their requirements regarding a comfortable living and additional incentives for relocation should of course be addressed. However, this is no excuse for them to refuse their professional duties or seek private practice as a means to make more money. Private practice also need to be banned.

2.4 Hospitals and healthcare facilities need to follow the procedure of hygiene and cleanliness. There is no explanation for non release of funds on the part of the Sindh

Government for the maintenance of these centres. Lives are at stake here and the government needs to do everything it takes to ensure delivery of professional and acceptable medical care to its citizens.

2.5 There is strong need to increase the number of RHCs one each in 6 Talukas or BHU of central location be converted to RHC to cater the remote population on priority basis. These RHC then needs to be equipped with mobile clinics and ambulances to serve as referral.

2.6 It was mentioned strongly by both public at large and professional for establishing Child Health Institution under the Guidance of Tertiary level institution in Mithi to address the issues of child related diseases exclusively.

2.5 Social Protection: It is more than obvious that a population standing at the bottom of human development and deprivation needs a secure and stable support system for it to develop the capacity to respond to humanitarian crisis. The health card though a new concept on the basis of Prime Minister Health Insurance pattern shall be introduced along with cash support, ration card, employment guarantee.

There seem to be no plans to pursue this on the part of the federal or the provincial governments. A comprehensive social protection programme addressing the specific needs of the local population distressed by under development, natural calamities and breakdown of state infrastructure should be undertaken without delay.

2.5 Nutrition: There are significant nutritional needs in Tharparkar, and some of the associations with undernutrition that reflect intergenerational problems, such as the influence of maternal height, suggest that targeting interventions to key groups such as mothers, adolescent girls, and children under 5 is key. Other key drivers such as poverty alleviation and maternal education also reinforce the need for a multi-sectoral approach. This integration of nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions and programmes is therefore critical and in the post local government systems elections at union council, a huge opportunity for administration to develop and implement the nutrition program.

A bidirectional approach will be needed, aimed at securing both political and programmatic commitment. Political championing at the highest level is needed to establish nutrition as a development agenda across sectors. This necessitates biparti-

san adoption across party lines to avoid the danger of marginalization of nutrition if it remains tied to a single party's agenda. For this to happen, the case for nutrition needs to be well-presented to politicians and the executive bureaucracy through well-targeted orders of the honorable high court.

Adoption of a nutrition lens is needed in sectoral planning across key sectors, such as poverty, food, agriculture, health, WASH, education, and disaster management. This would require identification and adoption of nutrition indicators in relevant sectors and a cross-sectoral nutrition framework to ensure sustainability. Operationally, a structural home for nutrition is needed in each of the union council to mainstream nutrition as a subject across different sectors.

Funding has a role for placement of strategic incentives for nutrition. Donor funding may be used to increase state allocations, but both state and donor funding modalities must be carefully chosen to catalyze an evidence-based culture at both planning and local implementation levels as well as movement of nutrition from development to operational budgets.

In moving ahead, strategic coordination is also needed with the non-state sector, and their role in a multi-sector approach needs to be defined. Nutrition also requires investment in community mobilization networks at Taluka and local levels for absorption of nutrition outreach activities. While there are many civil society initiatives already in place for education in general, there is a clear need for integration of education and nutrition initiatives in school, especially for girls. Similarly, the WASH sector and agriculture sector are well placed for integration with health, nutrition, and food security strategies and linkage with community development initiatives at the local level. Tharparkar is ripe for this change.

2.6 Thar Specific Health Policy: For the Tharparkar government need to devise a separate recruitment and the administrative policy. In recruitment only those people are preferred who belong to the area and their availability should be ensured through a tenure posting. The policy can offer flexible terms of stay particularly the specialists based on specified period of rotation and implementing out of box solutions: The incentive to double the package could be one as remotest he or she is posted more the incentive could be, offer non-practicing allowance at a level to compensate to the earning he/she other wise earns from their private practice, provision of suitable

furnished accommodation, separate management or administration. The experiences suggest elsewhere that these kind of incentives would always work and professional will be waiting for the turn to be posted in Thar.

3. **Introduction of Ration Card and offering Subsidized Food Basket:** The current practice of free wheat distribution shall be converted in to a subsidized food basket (Vegetable oil, wheat, rice, sugar, and lentils) covering the bottom of the pyramid or adopting the BISP families for support. The Ration Depot shall be located at the central place of each location on an independent place. The selection of Depot Keeper shall be made through a transparent rule preferably following SEPRAs rules. The ration cards shall be linked with central data, which shall allow a family to buy food basket on any of the designated depot as per given quantity of food basket. Since Ration Cards were in practice in early 70s, which people had accepted and were said were operating through a transparent system. The Government can learn from the past experience to make new one and link it with the technology.
4. **Establishment of Thar Development Authority:** Since Thar is complex with numerous dimensions of development and social fabric, therefore, an umbrella organization to manage such crisis is needed. The Chief Minister Sindh did announce this authority several times, which needs to be established on priority basis and its role be enhanced to manage the drought like situation through a coordinated effort.
3. **Employment and Livelihood Opportunities:** For a region that has seen rapid infrastructure development, and now the development of coal reserves, it is unacceptable that local population has been excluded from reaping the fruits of the process. They have the foremost right to natural resources of their area. Moreover, when a development project is undertaken, their right to jobs come first. No undertaking in Tharparkar has cared for this provision. Such processes breed resentment among the local population, as is being seen in Balochistan.

The government should pursue a royalty system for exploration of coal reserves in the region while it should also make provisions for compulsory employment of local population in any development projects undertaken in the area. If there are any skills gap, it is the state's responsibility to establish vocational training facilities for the lo-

cals so that they can become an active agents for economic change in the region. Corporate Social Responsibility can be explored as an avenue to facilitate greater access of the local population to education, healthcare, livelihood and development opportunities.

We also propose that as a vast majority of the region's population is associated with agriculture, land entitlements should be made with specific focus on food security. This would of course work only if accompanied by agricultural reforms. However, given very small farm ownership size among the local population, it is advocated that a certain ratio per head¹ is distributed among the landless and they be encouraged to use it for agriculture purposes with the assistance of the state.

5. Water resource management: Notwithstanding the exacerbation of water insecurity in Thar, the public-sector investments in providing secure and safe water to the population must be scaled up. The present RO plants fixation may not fulfill the future challenges.

1. Provisioning of Reverse Osmosis Plants: Providing sweet water to far flung areas of the drought affected area through reverse osmosis plants. Establishing water distribution system to the places where there is no availability of sweet water via pipe or tanker system. Apart from it, possibilities for provision of irrigation water to Tharparkar and hilly areas are required to be explored particularly extension of Chotiari Canal that will provide water to Umerkot in future. In addition, construction of small dams in the hilly areas is also recommended.

2. Water Related Projects: The development policy in the drought struck area should focus on the provision of water related schemes or projects such as constructing Tarais, dug wells, small dams, check dams, provision of providing solar pumps etc to effectively manage surface and underground water. Solar pumps are required to be provided in those areas where the sweet water is available but there is no provision of electricity. This will add to the availability of drinking water and would facilitate the cause of cultivation also.

- 6. Agriculture development:** It is estimated that 60% population of Thar owns land ranging from 18 acre to 150 acres. The two-third of Tharparkar has huge potential to develop for off rain fed agriculture. However, there is no mechanism of developing the hidden potential. It is also reported that during the good harvest periods Thar injects more than Rs. 8 billion in economy from its rain fed agriculture produce that helps farmers clear their debt, meet social obligations and sustain till next harvest. Since the climate and weather patterns are changing all over the world, this has also impacted Thar in the form of frequent droughts and severe weather. Whereas, at present agriculture extension and research departments are redundant or absent from Thar. Thar is not even on the radar of Provincial Agriculture department. Therefore, we strongly recommend that a comprehensive agriculture development plan should be prepared and bore solar run tube-wells be provided on subsidized loans to promote the local off rain fed agriculture. Hence, it is pertinent to ask Agriculture Engineering and water management departments of the Government of Sindh to include Tharparkar in the project "Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project" on a priority basis.
- 7. Livestock Development:** The 15 per cent of the total livestock population of Sindh comes from Thar. The estimated number being referred is between 6.5 to 7 million heads. Tharparkar offers the best breed of cattle, sheep, goats, and camel. Thar provides around 40% of the meat requirement of Karachi (estimates). Whereas 90% population living in Thar keeps animals as part of subsistence economy. Having that much strength and contribution in the national economy, its development and improvement is left over the mercy of God or on the will of traders who, in difficult times exploit the animal owners. The animal husbandry department is incompetent to imagine the opportunity and have not made any progress or extended any help to the farmers. We, at the Commission are of strong opinion that the sector is highly neglected and need strong focus and resources. The Commission recommends immediate overhauling of animal husbandry department in the context of Thar and a comprehensive development plan should be made keeping following in mind:
- Posting of competent officer and head of the district

- Infrastructure development at each union council and timely releases.
- Appointment of qualified veterinarian at each facility in each union council
- Supply of vaccines and drugs in sufficient quantity to meet the need of the catchment area.
- Loss assessment and mechanism of replenishing stock through soft loan schemes
- Arrangement of fodder and water for the livestock at each union council that too on subsidized rates

8. Thar Drought Policy: Thar is climatic target of frequent droughts and can back fall in a crisis situation anytime. Therefore, the Government of Sindh should adopt a separate policy and response line of action for drought. The PDMA may be made to implement the policy. This type of policy framework has already been worked out through a Committee constituted by the orders of Chief Minister in 2014 -2015. Once the Drought Policy is approved and implemented, the role of relief commissioner shall either be stopped or minimized as far drought is concerned.

9. Education special focusing on female literacy: Addressing the issue of female education in Thar would ultimately address the crises such as current one. However, this aspect requires lots of investment particularly in infrastructure, employment of female teachers and transportation. We recommend it because the female literacy ratio is negligible in Tharparkar on the one hand and on the other hand government is blaming mothers for the ignorance of child spacing, reproductive health, malnutrition and early marriages. All these four issues has only one solution - education that continuous up to university. This invest will in long run allow girls to continue education rather preferring marrying, will have more knowledge about the self protection and family planning and many of them will ultimately be contributing as service providers in their own villages. **It is pertinent to suggest that no single room school shall be constructed be it from MPA special funds rather all school building should not have less than three rooms, compound wall, water facility and toilets.**

10. Higher education services - Establishing University: Tharparkar has no centre for higher education. Barring some project development interventions,

there aren't even institutions for vocational or skill development. At the same time, a large majority of the medical students in Sindh seek Tharparkar's quota to gain enrollment in medical colleges. This is unfair with the region. It is strongly recommended that a full fledged university with departments that are specifically relevant to Tharparkar's conditions be established. Special shuttle services to transport students settled in distant areas need to be initiated. A curriculum fostering pluralism, tolerance and respect for other religions and cultures also needs to be pursued as the region has a vast majority of Hindu population. The university may include medical college, centers on arid zone, engineering, development, agriculture, science, and social sciences, among others. Moreover, colleges and vocational training centers also need to be opened.

11. Technical Education and para medical training institutions: Since Thar is for development of all sort specially Thar coal, which will require Rs 62 billion rupees to develop and attract additional donor funding. There are also other minerals such as salt mines and china clay. This whole development paradigm will need skillful human resources. We, therefore, recommend that skill enhancement institutes catering the future needs of the local population would be an important part. The establishment of vocational skills, para medical and para natural sciences institutes is essential.

12. Environment and forestation:**Environment:** There are no studies on the environmental impact infrastructure development in the region. Coal development, especially for the purpose of power production, is being abandoned around the world for its contribution to pollution and environmental degradation. There is no public knowledge, documents or discourse on how it is likely to impact the Thar region and if the government is making any special provisions to address any negative fallout. Moreover, the vegetation and trees that are cleared during the process of infrastructure layout are never replaced. This is a criminal negligence on the part of the state that allows contractors to go scot free, while the local population pays the price for it. This issue also needs to be addressed. Since deforestation is happening on rapid pace for two reasons - a) drought and population pressure; b) development and over occupation of land; in the both the cases the tree and bushes cover is being reduced. In some cases the trees and bushes are being cut for commercial purposes without realizing the impact on the climate. We

strongly recommend that commercial use of tree and bushes be stopped through enforcing law. Development actors shall be made bound to plant ten time more local species than what they cut while undertaking any development project. It is learned that each year soon after the first monsoon shower, there is large influx of the Russian brand Tractors from Barrage area for cultivation of lands. This phenomenon does not only exploit the resources from poor farmers but destroy the land. There should a policy for cultivation methods in Thar that ensure protecting both resources and land quality.

13. **Transportation and Communication Network:** It is extremely important that a transportation network, preferably a fleet of buses to accommodate more people, is immediately pursued. The overpacked jeeps that are called "taxis" in the region are not only dangerous for the lives of the commuters, they also violate human dignity and right to safe transport. Lack of public transport keeps people excluded from seeking livelihood opportunities. In times of health emergencies, it can actually add to the crisis further. There is no justification to ignore the most important need of the citizens of Tharparkar. However, it cannot be done without investing on the quality road network linking all Union Councils with near by towns. Presently, the remote 9 union councils of Taluka Dahli are not linked with district headquarter. As a result people have to pay extra amount of money and time to cross through the Umerkot district.

14. **Tourism Industry:** There is huge potential of promoting domestic tourism in Thar, which needs to be exploited properly. The GOS should have priority over devising the strategy and encouraging private sector to come as partner in the public-private partnership mode and develop the area. This alone will become a game changer and would bridge the gap between have and have not also, between urban and rural in addition it will be bound to create the job opportunity to the young entrepreneurs.

"concludes"

List of items or material available and referred to: . . .

1. (report of Dr Sanauallah Abbasi, Objections by the Sindh Govt on Sanauallah Abbasi's report; Various Reports Submitted by Judicial Officers in pursuant to orders dated 11-03-2014 and 31-10-2014; Report of the Chief Secretary, Sindh; Comments by Secretary, Food Department, ~~Govt of Sindh Report of Dr Sanauallah Abbasi~~)
2. **National Commission for Human Rights Report**
3. **The Haunting Footprints of Drought, Hunger and Poor Governance: A Report on the Tharparkar Crisis**
4. **Health Department, Government of Sindh – Tharparkar Report: Challenges and Interventions (Detailed Report by Chief Secretary Sajjad Saleem Hotiana)**
5. **Thardeep Rural Development Programme – A Brief Presentation**
6. **Report by Civil Society of Chachro: Thar Drought: Issue, Factors and Actors**
7. **Record files of Office of the Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar**
8. Notes by TMA
9. Agriculture Statistics (Crops Grown Area Yields) by Taluka for the Year 2013-14
10. Briefing Health Situation in Tharparkar (by DC office; dated 10 March 2016)
11. **Loose papers: (inserted in Oxford University Press Diary)**
12. A set of recommendations by the Dua Foundation
13. Briefing of Civil Hospital Mithi – Dr Iqbal Ahmed Bhurqi, Civil Surgeon, Civil Hospital, Mithi
14. Note from the Office of the District Health Officer Tharparkarat Mithi; statistics on population covered by the LHWs; dated 31 March 2016
15. Some papers with notes and applications written in Sindhi and Urdu

16. TRDP
17. Girls Stipend Details 2014-15 by the Govt of Sindh, Education and Literacy Department for District Tharparkar, Tehsil Chachro, UC name: 4-Chachro
18. ~~List of Dangerous Buildings by the office of the Taluka Education Officer Primary/Male (Schools) Islamkot Dated 2 April 2016~~
19. A List of "Satisfactory Schools" by the Office of the Taluka Education Officer of Primary Male (schools); dated 2 April 2016
20. Presentation on Phase III for District Tharparkar Under the Project Drinking Water Hub
21. Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Sindh
22. ~~List of Schemes and ABP Allocation and Expenditure 2015-2016~~
23. Release Position of Funds
24. Presentation on RHC Islamkot
25. ~~Observations and Suggestions by Abdul Fatah Malik, Chairman Thar Drought Commission -- dated 7 April 2016~~
26. Press clippings of the Commission's visit
27. Briefing of Civil Hospital Mithi, District Tharparkar – Dr Iqbal Ahmed Bhurgri, Civil Surgeon, Civil Hospital, Mithi
28. Report by District Tharparkar Health Department, Govt of Sindh
29. Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for Thar Drought Held on 24.03.2016 in PDMA Head Office
30. Office of the Assistant Commissioner Revenue – Taluka Islamkot
31. Current Picture of Drought in District Tharparkar
32. A presentation on Islamkot Taluka
33. Proposals and Recommendations for the Meeting of Forestation and Agriculture Working Group

34. Work Done Statement by Senior Veterinary Officer, Vet Dispensary, Islamkot
35. Islamkot Town Committee:
36. Status of Devp Schemes till 25-03-2016
37. Implementation on Status of Devp Schemes for the period of 2014-2015
38. Printed photos of development work
39. Statement by PRC Islamkot on cropwise issue of relief to the drought affected people – First to Eight phase
40. Office of the Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar – Taluka Dahli
41. Briefing Regarding Taluka Dahli
42. Presentation, Thar Drought: Issue, Factors and Action by CIVIS Society Chachro on 4 April 2016
43. Whenever Duty Calls: A set of Reports by Taj Haider for Stakeholders on Tharparkar Relief Work – March 2014
44. Sindh Medical Support Programme – Project Document and Notes
45. Report by Taj Haider on miscellaneous Issues
46. Disease Preventives of Districts Tharparkar @ Mithi
47. Presentation on RO Plants by Director General of Sindh Coal Authority 28 March 2016
48. A report Phase Wise Issue of Wheat as Relief - by District Food Controller, Tharparkar – March 2014 – Feb 2016
49. Statement Showing Daily Distribution of Free Relief Wheat – 8th phase on 30 March 2016; also one from 6-30 March 2016
50. Profile Talukha Diplo
51. Taluka Mithi

52. Details of closed school of District Tharparkar by District Education Officer, Mithi
53. List of under treatment of HEC-C and HEP-B, Civil Hospital, Mithi
54. ~~Issues of Health Department, District Tharparkar~~
55. Abstract: Details of Water Storage Capacity and Population Served/To be Served
56. Briefing of Health Facilities of District Tharparkar by Dr Arjan Kumar, District Health Officer, Tharparkar at Mithi
57. Delivery Challans of medicines for Office of the Civil Surgeon Civil Hospital
58. Complete Urban Rural Water Supply Schemes
59. Presentation on Tharparkar by unidentified
60. Statement showing the details of the free cost wheat 1st phase to 8th phase for Mithi
61. Details of Depot Keepers
62. PHED Tharparkar: Note on Canal Based Water Supply
63. Delivery Challan to Civil Surgeon Hospital by Parras Enterprise
64. Statement showing Daily Distribution of Free Relief Wheat 8th phase
65. Presentations:
66. Briefing of Health Facilities of District Tharparkar
67. Taluka Education Officer on State of Schools in Mithi - Males
68. Taluka Education Officer on State of Schools in Mithi – Females
69. Tharparkar Health Initiative
70. Government Dispensaries Under Construction in District Tharparkar - Office of the District Health Officer Tharparkar @ Mithi
71. OPD Indoor of District Tharparkar 2012-2016

72. Documents by Mahesh Kumar, MPA, PPP
73. Demand for Furniture Required - Office of District Education Officer, Primary Tharparkar @ Mithi
74. Taluka Dahli and Chachro
75. Profile of Taluka Diplo
76. Brief of District Dahli @ Kheme Jo Par, District Tharparkar
77. Thar Drought: Issue, Factors and Actors, Civil Society, Chachro
78. ~~Briefing of Schools in Taluka Chachro by Taluka Education Officer~~
79. Taluka ~~Nagarparkar~~
80. Briefing by Small Dams Organisation, Sindh
81. Office of the Taluka Education Officer Primary (M) Nagarparkar
82. Abstract of Govt Boys Schools one room
83. ~~General Information of Taluka Nagarparkar~~
84. Baanhn Beli Representation Meeting of Commission for Thar Drought Held on April 3, 2016 at Town Comiittee Office Nagarparkar
85. Field notes from Tharparkar – an article by Javed Jabbar
86. Statement showing the arrival report of wheat crop 2012-2013/2013-2014/2014-2015 free cost relief wheat from 4 March 2014 to 30 March 2016
87. Details of current picture of drought affected areas of Nagarparkar, Dist Thar
88. Verification of functional/non functional Reverse Osmosis Plants of Taluka Nagarparkar
89. Hand written notes – photocopy (i) Gadhro Bhattani Dam Recharge (ii) Cultivation of Dams 2015-2016
90. Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition Shifa Foundation Nagarparkar

91. List of Livestock Population Deh Wise
92. Work done from June 2015 to March 2016 in Taluka Nagarparkar, District Tharparkar
93. Thardeep Rural Development Programme: A Brief Presentation
94. Presentation: office of the Taluka Education Officer, Primary Male, Nagarparkar: Brief History of TEO PRY 2016-2017
95. Appointment orders by Office of the District Health Officer, Mithi
96. Request of Grant Permission Deep Bore in Town Nangarparkar, to Secretary Local Govt Department – 1 April 2016
97. Detailed Reported Regarding Development Schemes on Nagarparkar – Office of the Town Committee Nagarparkar years 2013-14 an 2014-15
98. Detailed Reported Regarding Development Schemes on Nagarparkar – Office of the Town Committee Nagarparkar years 2013-14 an 2014-15
99. Draft Thar drought policy framework
100. Draft Thar Development Authority framework proposed
101. Minutes of the Meetings with all stakeholders that commission held during the process.



GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
SERVICES, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
AND CO-ORDINATION DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

NO:SO(C-IV)/SGA&CD/EC-1/2014: In supersession of this department's Notification of even number dated 10th February, 2016 and with the approval of Competent Authority i.e., Chief Minister Sindh, the Government of Sindh is pleased to reconstitute a Commission for Thar drought with the following composition and TORs:-

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Mr. Abdul Fatah Malik, Ex- Advocate General Sindh. | Convener |
| 2. Dr. Tipu Sultan | Member |
| 3. Mr. Sono Khangharani | Member |
| 4. Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Government of Sindh. | Member/Secretary |

Terms of Reference:-

- i) To enquire into the causes, response of the administration in current crises.
- ii) To fix the responsibility for lapse, if any, of the concerned departments in mitigating the situation during drought in District Tharparkar.
- iii) To suggest recommendations for remedial measures.
- iv) The Commission shall submit the report within 30-days.

MUHAMMAD SIDDIQUE MEMOI
PAS
CHIEF SECRETARY SINDH

NO: SO(C-IV)/SGA&CD/ EC-1/2014

Karachi, dated the 21st March, 2016.

A copy is forwarded for information & necessary action to:-

- > The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sindh.
- > The Secretary, Law Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
- > The Chairman/Members (all) of the Commission for Thar drought.
- > The Secretary, Rehabilitation Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
- > The Registrar, Honourable High Court of Sindh, Karachi
- > The Director General, PDMA Sindh, Karachi.
- > The Deputy Secretary (Staff) to Chief Secretary.
- > The Focal Person to Chief Secretary Sindh on Court Matters, Karachi
- > The Section Officer (HRC-II), I&C Wing of SGA&CD, Govt. of Sindh w.r.t. ACP.No. 1181/2014
- > The P.S. to Chief Secretary Sindh.
- > The P.S. to Secretary (I&C), SGA&CD.
- > Master file.

SECTION OFFICER (C-IV)

Meeting Schedule for 28.03.2016

Sr. No.	Day Date	Time	Meeting With
01		10:00 am to 11:00 am	...
02		11:00 am to 12:00 pm	Secretary Finance Department
03		12:00 pm to 01:00 pm	Secretary Food Department
04		01:00 pm to 02:00 pm	Secretary Live Stock & Fisheries Department
	Monday 28.03.2016		
05		02:00 pm to 03:00 pm	Secretary Health Department
06		03:00 pm to 04:00 pm	Secretary Special Initiative Department
07		04:00 pm to 05:00 pm	Secretary Energy Department & Director Iron Coal Authorn.

Visit Schedule of "Commission for Thar Drought"

Day / Date	Time	Meeting With	Action By
Wednesday 30.03.2016	08:00 am	Departure from Karachi	SGA&CD
	03:00 pm to 05:00 pm	Meeting with District Officials at Darbar Hall Mithi	DC Tharparkar
	05:00 pm to 06:00 pm	Meeting with Media	DC Tharparkar
	06:00 pm to 07:00 pm	Meeting with District Judge	DC Tharparkar
	Night Stay	Night Stay At Mithi	DC Tharparkar
Thursday 31.03.2016	11:00 am to 02:00 pm	Meeting with Taluka Officials of Taluka Diplo	AC Diplo
	02:00 pm to 04:00 pm	Visit of Taluka Hospital Diplo, Food Godown, RO Plants etc.	MS Taluka Hospital Diplo and AC Diplo
	04:00 pm to 06:00 pm	Slot for Meeting with Civil Society, Public, Media & Bar.	AC Diplo
	Night Stay	Night Stay at Mithi	DC Tharparkar
Friday 01.04.2016	11:00 am to 02:00 pm	Meeting with Taluka Officials of Chachro & Dahli	AC Chachro & AC Dahli
	02:00 pm to 04:00 pm	Visit of Taluka Hospital Chachro, Food Godowns, R.O Plants etc.	MS Taluka Hospital Chachro and AC Chachro & AC Dahli
	04:00 pm to 06:00 pm	Slot for Meeting with Civil Society, Public, Media & Bar.	AC Chachro & AC Dahli
	Night Stay	Night Stay at Islamkot	AC Islamkot
Saturday 02.04.2016	11:00 am to 02:00 pm	Meeting with Taluka Officials of Islamkot	AC Islamkot
	02:00 pm to 04:00 pm	Visit of Taluka Hospital Islamkot, Food Godowns, R.O Plants etc.	MS Taluka Hospital Islamkot and AC Islamkot