Enlightened leadership is authentic

*Kainat Nizamani*

**SFCG honed the skills and provided necessary training to Kainat Nizamani to become the youngest woman political leader in Badin, Sindh.**

Kainat Nizamani is President Ladies Wing, Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F) and belongs to district Badin, Sindh. Only one year has passed since she started her political career with PML-F at the age of 23. She has been elected as her party's District President of Ladies Wing. She holds a Master's degree in English language.

Since her election as the district president, Kainat has become an inspiration for young girls in her area. She wants to contest the upcoming general elections 2013 but the minimum age required under the Pakistani law to contest elections is 25 years.

This has not deterred or discouraged her, and she is committed that this is just a beginning of her career.

Kainat attended Leadership and Peacebuilding workshop organized by SFCG for district political women leaders in October 2012. She terms the training "extremely beneficial". "I learnt using many useful tools that I can now deploy to further my political career," she says, specifically indicating "Problem Solving Techniques" as a unique learning. "When I will work with my party women in future on various issues, I can use these tools to narrow the differences and focus on the issues and their resolution," says Kainat.

She recalls that it was only during the training workshop that she learnt to define the leadership goals via the “Net of Thread” methodology. "I found it immensely inspirational, revealing, and I discovered that all women are connected and so are our issues," she says. "The realization of coming together to raise our voice jointly is a potent way to make any difference in the social attitudes toward women, and particularly women in politics."

Referring to the benefits of the training, Kainat says that now she successfully uses the techniques that she learnt during the training when she holds political meetings of men and women at the Union Council level. She says that both women and men need to become allies for solving the problems and making Pakistan a prosperous and developed country: "Therefore, it is utmost important for us all to understand each other."

Since the training, Kainat has constantly advocated women’s rights in her party and has emerged as a prominent voice for women in her district. She is grateful to SFCG believing that such training opportunities assist in expanding the intellectual horizons of women in Pakistan. "From having a subconscious sense of being a woman leader, now I consciously feel becoming an authentic leader," she says. “And I am just beginning,” she smiles.