From politics to leadership

*With SFCG’s support and training, Rahila Khadim Hussain is practicing a new level of confidence in legislature as well as public speaking*

Mrs. Rahila Khadim Hussain is a hardworking Lahorite spouse of Syed Naeem Abbas. Born in Lahore, she graduated in 1997 from Government College for Women, Baghbanpura, Lahore. Presently, she is a businesswoman and was also elected as Member of Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in general elections 2008 on one of the reserved seats for women.

Rahila is a member of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) and has a family background in politics. Her mother Begum Sardar Khadim Hussain remained a member of the Lahore District Parliament in 2001. Rahila also served as the Additional General Secretary of her party from 2005 to 2008. During her tenure as Member of the Punjab Assembly, she was among the most active members of the House Committee on Information.

She was among the leading participants of a two-day training workshop on “Effective Leadership, Peace building and Advocacy and Effective Media Messaging” organized by SFCG as part of its “Strengthening Women Parliamentarians of Pakistan For Effective Government” project. She terms the workshop a “pleasant learning experience” and says that now she is equipped to utilize a new skillset in her community and her political work in the parliament. “I am sure this would be greatly helpful in my parliamentary role in the future also,” she says. “The training has imparted on me authentic leadership skills and qualities.”

Rahila shares that she has been organizing political meetings, processions, seminars and gatherings of female and male members of her political party and as well as in her community. Appreciating the modules of SFCG training manuals, Rahila says that these have solidified her understanding on political, economic and other national issues. “I truly feel that these would be extremely beneficial for me in future,” she says. “The skills I have learned have proved helpful for me not just for political campaigning, but also have enabled me to play an active role in the business of the parliament.”

Rahila says that since her newfound confidence and ability to effectively manage the media, no media anchor can take her for granted anymore. “This is all because of the skillset that I learned from my participation in the media messaging workshop that SFCG arranged,” she says. “Now I know how to handle any question while interacting with media and this is extremely empowering!”

Looking back, Rahila feels she was a politician earlier. “Now I feel myself like a political leader,” she says with pride.

For more information, please contact infopk@sfcg.com