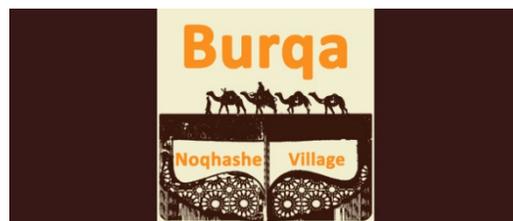


## Women of Qeshm Island and their vision to cope with drought and water scarcity

Qeshm Island is situated in the group of hot and dry lands, with high humidity, along Persian Gulf in south of Iran. Drought and water scarcity is one of fundamental challenges for indigenous coastal communities, in particular for women and girls during daily life.

CENESTA, facilitated a participatory empowerment process with indigenous coastal women and girls and as a result women established a self-organizing women's organisation called "Burqa" to improve livelihood situation of community members.



[https://www.instagram.com/burqa.cbo/p/BcMn7U\\_DjGG/](https://www.instagram.com/burqa.cbo/p/BcMn7U_DjGG/)

In Burqa women's group, the benefit of individuals depends on the collective benefits of group members. They try to cope with their local problems instead migration and sustain their indigenous and local live style in their unique and beautiful region and promote role at various levels.

The group members with inspiration of their bio-cultural diversity, and their principles on conservation of nature, were able to produce unique handicrafts for income generation at various levels to improving their livelihood situation and cope with drought and water scarcity.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bgsxp3njEGK/?hl=bn>

They believe, lack of financial resources, especially during drought period and hot seasons, is one of the reasons for provision of safe and healthy drinking water that plays vital role in women's and girls' health and the quality of family life. So, with income generation activities, they are able to reduce some of their daily challenges due to water scarcity in particular during hot and dry seasons with around 40-46° C.

This has encouraged women and girls from other villages to collaborate with Burqa women's group. Along handicrafts production, Burqa women expanded their work to community based eco-tourism, aiming to promote the role of women in socio-economic and environmental activities within the Island.

The next goal of the group is to repair their traditional water reservoirs that are not functioning and require repair and reconstruction to store water at the time of rainfall. According to the women's group of burqa, this will lead to more sustainable collective activities and a way forward for having more empowered women and girls at community levels to fight over their rights and gender equity.

For more information please refer to:

<http://www.cenesta.org/en/2018/08/05/burqa-cbo/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPbkg4x675E>

<http://www.cenesta.org/en/category/themes-en/nomads-lc-en/lc-en/qeshm-en/>