

STORY OF STRUGGLE AND SUCCESS- YASMEEN BIBI

ACCORDING TO YASMEEN

“SHE IS SATISFIED THAT HER CHILDREN
DO NOT SLEEP HUNGRY”.

Yasmeen BB, lives in village Kokar, union council Mandran Kalaan of district Dera Ismail Khan. She is intermediate but her husband who is B.A pass is unemployed though he has been trying to get job opportunity but, failed. So he started earning through petty jobs of daily wage laborer to feed his nine family members.

Flood of 2010 made their life even worse as it happened with others as well. Flood pushed down the poverty line, which were in poor category. Similarly, Yasmeen’s family was also badly affected which was managed somehow. They reconstructed their house but unemployment was still an issue. Feeding the family members included five children, and a parent was still a crisis for them. Yasmeen decided to help her husband so tried her for getting support of Benazir Income Support program (BISP) but did not succeed.

Yasmeen as a pessimist soul thought of getting some loan to start her own shop for helping his husband and family too. She discussed this matter with his husband and then borrowed money from her friends/neighborhood. As they were also very poor people so she can managed to collect rupees 1300 only. With this little amount she opened a shop in her house, goods for sale included clips, necklace set, rings and ponies. Her life was tough and she needed more money to increase the quantity of goods that were in demand. She could not find any way and was disappointed. Sad enough, she had her ailing parents to look after along with children and other family members.

But Yasmeen was not a hopeless woman.

Meanwhile, South Asia Partnership (SAP) with the cooperation of SERVE decided to start a program called “Peace & Livelihood for Rural Poor (PLRP)” in UC Kech and Mandran Kalaan of district Dera Ismail Khan.

After base line survey, SERVE selected village Kokar of UC Mandran Kalaan as well. Serve social mobilizers motivates people around the collective efforts which can bring change in their lives. These motivational sessions resulted the formation of “Suda Welfare Society” and Yasmeen

also become a member. With the mission of transformation and development shift in the village Yasmeen with VO started organizing people.

Yasmeen says she has eight siblings, two brothers and six sisters. Her one brother was killed in a bomb explosion incident. Her other brother arranged her sisters marriage without their consent. Now he became head of the house and grabbed her father's property. After his marriage he had abandoned his parents and throws them out of house. They were old and could not get any place to live so Yasmeen with her husband suggestion brought them to her house. Now she has to feed her parents as well, with her meager fair.

During a monitoring visit, program coordinator, Shabnam Rashid, other women testified Yasmeen's story to her. So program coordinator visited her shop and noticed the bad economic condition but appreciated her efforts and promised to be helped. According to her promise Ms. Shabnam Rashid with the coordination of Ms. Haseena Malik sent her 10,000 rupees as a supported loan. Yasmeen with this extra support bought children shoes, winter cloths, socks, lace for cloth, soap, surf, bangles and second hand clothing for her shop. It was near the Eid day she expecting more profit and that is what exactly happened.

Yasmeen Says PLRP open up an opportunity to bring positive shift in her life and she is thankful of Shabnam Rashid and Hassina Malik who has trusted her. She will repay this loan so that another woman can seek help from this very little amount. This little help and cooperation made her capable of maintaining a record that helps her keep an eye over the daily savings and loans. Everything was disorganized before but, now the buyers can see everything before buying. According to Yasmeen "she is satisfied that her children do not sleep hungry". She is happy that SAP and SERVE helped her and their efforts have helped her family.