

Success Story: Skill Training and Asset Transfer, Economic Resilience Component under KNH IC&WCCD Project in Battagram

Art allows people a way to dream their way out of their struggle

Social and development scientists describe human, technical, natural, and financial resources as essential components for sustainable development. Human resources have much more importance in keeping and catering to the other resources. The development of human resources needs education, good physical condition, balance in resources and population, investment in the human development sector, and the overall existence of peace and harmony. From the provision of all these elements emerges a civilized and harmonious civil society that gets technical skills and works on its natural resources along with its available financial resources. These activities lead to the existence of a prosperous, tolerant, and goal-oriented society.



Mrs. Atiqa with her toolkit provided through the project

Ms. ATIQA BIBI, age 21, is a permanent resident of Kuz Pao, Union Council Ajmera, District Battagram. She was a self-trained tailor before the intervention of CUP and used to sew clothes for her domestic needs. Her husband, by profession a skilled laborer, has meagre earnings not even sufficient to fulfil the basic needs of their family.

Her husband was struggling to support the basic needs of his family. When the CUP project team started the PSC survey in UC Ajmera, Atiqa's house was identified by the community activists for the provision of support. She was later approached by the CUP team to register her as a member of the CG. She became an active member of her CG. She also encouraged other poor females in her surrounding community to participate in social mobilization activities by CUP. She also motivated her CG members to collect donations for the CG's sustainability.



Dresses designed and tailored by Mrs. Atiqa

During the CUP-KNH interventions, keeping in view her interest, she was selected for skill training and asset provision in domestic tailoring.

In her own words, Mrs. Atiqa expressed her case joyfully, *"I am highly obliged to KNH and the Community Uplift Program for supporting me to get skill training in tailoring and start my own business. My husband had been struggling with life to help us survive with dignity and to get a good education for our only daughter, but with limited income it was not possible. I had a great passion for tailoring and wanted to start my own business. However, due to the non-availability of funds to buy equipment necessary for starting my own business, I had no other option but to wait for some miracle. While hoping for a better future, my husband also moved to other cities in search of work, but he never had the opportunity to settle properly. The KNH-CUP intervention started in our area, and the members of our CG helped me in selection for training in tailoring and asset provision. Now, that I have received 20 days of tailoring training and tools with other essential equipment. I charge around Rs. 400 to 500 per suite depending on the style and design chosen by the customers. I am able to earn around **Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 18,000/- per month**. I am sure that with the passage of time, my business will expand. I have decided to transfer my skills to helpless young women too. Currently, there are two interns working with me"*.



Mrs. Atiqa is with her assistant, who joined her as internee

Mrs. Atiqa's income before the start of CUP-KNH interventions was irregular. The net household income per year was around Rs. 40-50 thousand. Most of the earnings were spent on providing food, house rent, and health. Her skills have been enhanced by acquiring skills training with assets, and her contribution to the net income of the house is approximately 80% of her net household income. Now she also got her daughter admitted to a nearby private public school. She has established herself as a quality and stylish fashion designer with expertise in modern stitching and sewing. She aspires to enhance her skills even further. She was also given the opportunity to experience a visit to the government skill training centre in Mansehra and was provided space for display of her products in the sales exhibition organized under the project.

(Note: The pictures are taken by the permission of beneficiary for this success story)