

## Widow supporting to her family

Ramsar Village is located in the desert area of district Umerkot consisting of 183 households. The majority of people in the village belong to Hindu community, their livelihood depends on livestock. The inhabitants of the village are living in the absolute poverty. Kinkoo, 45 years old widow lady, lives with her seven children in this village. She is regarded one of the poorest woman in the village. Kinkoo describes her pathetic and difficult days of her life. "When my husband passed away I was only crying and thinking about my innocent children, I had nothing available in home for my children and with the death of my husband everything laid upon my shoulders. I still remember those days when my children were weeping for single meal; sometimes my relatives could come along with three or four meals which were enough for children".

Feeling helpless Kinkoo was thinking to start work in order to earn some money and to reduce her children's appetite. "I was constantly thinking and different questions were rising in my mind like how I can earn money or I do not have such skills to earn money. At last I decided to learn sewing cloths and embroidery but it was very difficult for me to purchase expensive embroidery material and sewing machine. My father 80 years old, suggested me to send one of my child to city for work but I thought I would not send my children anywhere," Kinkoo uttered.



Kinkoo tried borrowing some money from village for the purpose of purchasing sewing machine but nobody supported her. She does not blame people for not helping her. She already knew that people in the village were facing famine and waiting for rain. "I consoled myself and thought to wait until rain and I was praying for rain, I thought it would rain and my area would be prosperous than I would take sewing machine," she said.

She describes a day which brought a hope for her. "It was year of 2008 when I saw a vehicle came in our village and I also noticed few males and one girl were coming in our homes. They called on people and we all females of the village participated in that gathering. They said to us Sami Foundation has come in the village for the purpose of supporting poor people and it would start project based on income generation of the women. When I heard about income generation of female members I became happy. Furthermore, we were informed that Sami Foundation would create business opportunities for poor women of the village. It was again great moment when I heard that poor women would be supported. I was also poor one in the village. I was selected for sewing machine. After few days same people came in our village and they gave me new packed sewing machine. When I was taking sewing machine from them, my eyes filled with tears, in fact, I did not think I would get machine free of cost."

Kinkoo did not know how to drive machine and to sew cloths. "When I got machine I was feeling happiness and anxious to learn immediately. I started the practice on my old clothes. I was cutting and

stitching cloths and within a week I learned sewing cloths. I learned quickly sewing cloths in fact it was poverty that pushed up me to learn skills”, Kinkoo added.

Kinkoo is earning 1000 to 1500 rupees per month through sewing cloths. She has also learned embroidery work. She is also making Sindhi caps (Sindhi topi). She earns 300 rupees from one piece of topi, which is profitable for her. She wants to make more Sindhi topi but she has no extra embroidery material. “If I will make more Sindhi topi and earn a lot of money, I will sell them in market. In fact, I am earning good amount a least now I have no tension for food at home, my children are eating two times of meal. Moreover, I am also saving some amount because I want to buy embroidery material for making Sindhi topi. Sewing machine has made me self-sufficient because from sewing cloths I earned and saved money. Due to sewing machine I am able to get my one child married. I want to earn and save money for my children. I remember those days when I had nothing and no source of income but now I have my sewing machine, I am making suits and taking 100 rupees on per suit and now my earning is good. I am living happily with my children.” Kinkoo shared.