

Skill is Wealth

Bilqeess, is the manager of CO 'NEMAT' in the village 304JB, District Toba Tek Singh, formed in August 2002. She has three daughters and two sons. Her husband is a grade 14 government servant in the neighbouring town.

Bilqeess wanted to increase her income as her family was large and it was not possible to save anything for the future. Secondly, she wished to have a 'Pakka' (cemented) house and that dream seemed impossible to her to come true in the given resources.

To increase her income, she took a loan from the platform of her CO from PRSP and bought some goats but the profit was very little. She thought that it would not be possible to change her fate in this way. She joined the group who was provided with a stitching training in 2002 by PRSP.

After receiving the training she took another loan from the PRSP and bought sewing machines. Since then, she is stitching the clothes and provides trainings to other girls in the village and charges Rs. 200/- per month as fee. She stitches both ladies and gents suits and charges Rs. 60-100 per suit depending on the design.

Now her daughter who is a matriculate also helps her. She is learning stitching from her mother. Bilqeess earns Rs. 4000/- to 5000/- per month at the time of the year when there are some festivals (e.g Eid) or marriage ceremonies. In routine, she earn Rs. 2500/- to 3000/- net per month. The income from the trainees is additional. She, at times, has four to five trainees.



Recently, she could get her two daughters married and her dream of having a PAKKA (cemented) house has also come true partially. Her sons are getting education. She feels that it could not have become possible for her family to settle their two daughters and the construction of the house if she was relying on her husband's salary only. She is still actively engaged with her CO and plans to buy livestock taking another loan from PRSP and utilizing her own savings.