

Work together, grow together

Mahesh is 24 years old, resident of village Rasheed Farm UC Kaak Taluka Shujaabad, district Mirpurkhas. He belongs to a Meghwar community (Hindu minority). His father Mr Narain is a tenant farmer of a village's landlord. It was very hard for Mahesh's family to survive with low income of agriculture labour. Mahesh is younger son among his three brothers and sisters. He had to discontinue his studies after completing his intermediate due to financial crises of his family. During the time of his father's illness, he had to do work for his family's livelihood.

When CSSP started business entrepreneurship program at district Mirpurkhas, Mahesh willingly attended all the learning sessions for becoming trainee on entrepreneur knowledge for gratifying the required needs of his family. Mahesh is also a Local Resource Person (LRP) of Rozgar Shifa Khan (RSK) Rasheed Farm.

In the year 2019, CSSP has provided the cash grants of PKR 25000 to small business groups through Rozgar Shifa Khana. Mahesh decided to start his small business which he learnt from CSSP's skilled development training.

Mahesh purchased Juke machine with the support of CSSP Loan Scheme. He started a small shop inside his village. He made publicity of his Tailoring work and developed linkage with garments shops of Karachi market within a few days and started getting the orders of readymade clothes, dresses, and other shopping bags etc. He started sewing all types of clothes with the support of his younger sister who also got training of stitching from RSK.

"I was in stress with having a very low income, and the sense of being different and of less worth. I had no other option but to live within my meagre resources due to soaring poverty or to do something for my family and myself. So I choose to start my own business. I am thankful to CSSP team that they gave me a chance and such kind of facilities; today I am fully confident for the better service of my family. CSSP turned my dreams into reality" said Mahesh.

During COVID-19 & lockdown situation people are suffering due to critical situation with the low source of income and facing challenges as all business activities and opportunities are closed due to COVID-19. Mahesh is receiving more orders of making clothes and masks due to owning his machine and capacity of working at home. In this situation, Mahesh is earning up to PKR 40000/- income per month.

Now Mahesh can give financial support to his family. He wants to work hard to improve his earnings in order to fulfil his dream to get higher education to his sister, brothers and his own. He wants to continue his education and get admission in the college to pursue his educational goals.



Figure 1 Mahesh, LRP at RSK Rasheed Farm, UC Kaak. Photo taken by Muhammad Ali Kapri