

A Journey Toward Empowerment

Tayyaba Arshad, a strong and ambitious woman from **Gajjumata, Lahore**, is a symbol of how skill development can change a woman's life for the better. With the support of **HomeNet Pakistan (HNP)** and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, she successfully completed a **three-month certified Dress Making course** through **VTI Kahna**. Today, she is earning with dignity and inspiring other women in her neighborhood to believe in their potential.



Early Life: A Dream Hidden Behind Responsibility

Growing up in a modest household in Gajjumata, Tayyaba's early life was filled with household responsibilities. Though she had a creative mind and a strong interest in stitching and design, she was never able to explore her talent due to financial constraints and the demands of daily life. Education was limited, and opportunities to gain professional skills were rare.

“I always enjoyed watching how fabric could be transformed into beautiful clothes. I wanted to learn more, but the opportunity never came,” Tayyaba recalled.

Life Before Training: Living with Limitations

Before joining the training, Tayyaba was a housewife, managing the home and caring for her family. Though she supported her household emotionally, she wished to also support financially. She often felt helpless seeing her family struggle with expenses. Her heart was full of desire to contribute—but without a skill or job, she remained dependent.

“I wanted to do something meaningful, not just for myself but for my children. I wanted to feel proud of myself,” she said.

Turning Point: Discovering the HNP and UNDP Program

Tayyaba’s life changed the day she heard about a **free Dress Making course** at **VTI Kahna**, supported by **HomeNet Pakistan and UNDP**. The course was designed for women like her—eager to learn but unable to afford professional training. Without hesitation, she applied and was accepted.

“It felt like someone had opened a door just for me. I knew this was my chance to start fresh,” she said with excitement.

Training at VTI Kahna: Learning with Confidence

Over the three-month training period, Tayyaba received hands-on instruction in **cutting, stitching, designing, measuring, and finishing** garments. She also learned about fabric types, quality control, and customer service. The supportive environment and professional trainers helped her gain both skill and self-belief.

“I never thought I could learn so much in just three months. It was like a dream coming true,” she shared proudly.

Overcoming Challenges with Determination

Managing training and household duties wasn’t easy. Tayyaba had to plan her day carefully, often waking up early to complete chores before attending the course. There were days when she felt tired or discouraged, but her determination to succeed never wavered.

“It was hard, but I kept reminding myself that I was doing this for my future—for my children and for myself,” she said.

Starting Her Home-Based Stitching Business

After completing her certification, Tayyaba started offering **tailoring services from her home**. She began by stitching clothes for family and neighbors. Her neat finishing, creative designs, and punctual delivery helped her gain regular clients. Slowly, word of mouth brought more business her way.

“The first time I earned from my stitching, I cried. It wasn’t just money—it was a symbol of independence,” she said with a smile.

Financial Contribution and Personal Growth

Today, Tayyaba earns a steady income from her home-based dressmaking business. She helps pay for groceries, children’s school fees, and household bills. Her family is proud of her achievements, and she feels a new sense of identity and confidence in her role—not just as a mother and wife, but also as a skilled professional.

“Now, I don’t need to ask anyone for small needs. I can fulfill them myself, and that’s a powerful feeling,” she said.

Inspiring Other Women in Gajjumata

Tayyaba’s journey has inspired many women in her community. She encourages them to seek skill-building opportunities and shares information about training programs. Several young girls in her area now look up to her as a role model. She dreams of one day opening a small stitching center to train others like her.

“If we support each other, we can lift entire families and communities. Every woman deserves this chance,” she said.

Gratitude for HNP and UNDP

Tayyaba is deeply thankful to **HomeNet Pakistan and UNDP** for offering her a life-changing opportunity. She believes the course didn’t just teach her how to stitch—it taught her how to believe in herself. The confidence, respect, and purpose she gained are priceless.

“They didn’t just give me a skill—they gave me a future. I’ll always be grateful,” she expressed with emotion.

Conclusion: Stitching Her Way to Success

From a quiet homemaker with unfulfilled dreams to a confident, skilled, and self-reliant woman, **Tayyaba Arshad’s story** is proof that with the right support and determination, anything is possible. Thanks to the partnership between HNP and UNDP, she now lives a life of purpose, dignity, and hope—and she’s helping others do the same.