



## **Success Story of Miss Hajra**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Sect</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>UC</b>	<b>District</b>
Hajra	Ahl-e-Tashi	35 Years	Basti Bhendi	Khuda Bux Mahar	Bahawalpur

### **Background of the Story:**

Basti Bhendi is a village in which various sect people have been living. The main issues of the area are typecasts, intolerance and rigidity among the people of various sect and languages. All sect people consider themselves as superior to others. One of our beneficiaries, Miss Hajra belongs to above mentioned area and she also had been practicing according to her environment which she had gained from her family. She is 35 years old and during her life time she never listened about tolerance, to give respect to other sect people as considering them human beings. She never talk to other sect females, she is married as well as her husband never allowed her to go outside from her home to do anything good for herself according to her own wishes as to learn stitching or any other skill. Her husband is very rigid and he did not allow her even to go in her neighborhood because of stereotypical minds. Her husband was one of the males who consider that females has born just to stay at home and bringing up their children, they have no right to live according to their own wishes, as they are not allowed to do anything according to their own wills therefore they are not allowed by their males to sit with other sect females because of sectarian hatred.

### **Transformation of Conflict (Resolution):**

Sanjh Pakistan Team visited the village of Bhendi and when met with Miss Hajra to brief her about the objectives of project “Women as Peace Leader in Bahawalpur.” She liked the objectives of the project but told team that she might not take part in the project because her husband would not allow her to sit with others sect females; she herself was ready to become the part of activities. By knowing about her interest, Sanjh Pakistan team also met with her husband for many times and briefed him the whole project as well as requested for allowing her wife to learn stitching as well as briefed him about peace and tolerance, the basic need of peace in our lives as well as if the concept of giving space to other will be has in female’ mind’; she would be able to bring up her children well and her generation would



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be able to live peacefully with the people of society. Sanjh Pakistan invited her husband in coordination meeting so that he could also listen about the objectives of project in which team told participants that this project is based on to develop peace and to give respect people as all are human beings. Team also satisfied the male members of the area by saying that in this project all beneficiaries will be females, vocational teacher will also be a female in each center and team will be responsible for all females of peace vocational centers. Miss Hajra was invited to participate in Two-day CVE Training session in which she listened about conflict resolution, tolerance, peace and interfaith harmony. The main thing which inspired her is that in training there was no concept of any sect, cast or language, all participants were treated equally by the facilitator of training. Miss Hajra appreciated the themes and environment of training in which all females sat together without any segregation of sect, linguistic difference and domestic customs. When Miss Hajra started to come in peace vocational center; many of the people criticized her and reacted as she committed a sin but she told them that they were living in darkness as in their whole lives females were asked to not speak with other sect females because they are inferior to them. She said to those females, “Before of being the part of the project, my perceptions were also that I am superior to other people but believe me we are wrong because we neglect the teachings of humanity which teaches us that we all are equal and we must respect each other without any segregation of sects, languages, cast or creed. And there is no limit of age to learn anything, in our whole lives we learn so many things/concepts from each other, then why a female who has young children is not allowed to learn expertise and skills according to her interest. Every female has the right to live as human beings not an object to be used by their males.” Miss Hajra invited her relatives to attend the SAPs of peace sports gala, interactive theaters and food mela in all activities the main objectives were to develop peace and tolerance among the people of diverse sect as well as to give respect others without any segregation of sect. Whatever, she has been learning, actively playing her role to promote the concepts as she tells everything to her husband on regular basis. Due to her briefing on daily basis, her husband realized all sect people are human beings and must be respected by each other. Many people criticized on her’ joining vocational center but due to the development of project’ objectives which her wife told him, he told them females also are human beings and when they will be have positivity in themselves, they will develop it in young generation.

Miss Hajra said, “This platform has unique value in my life because it changed not only me but also my husband’ perception and now he treat me with respect. It makes me able to realize that all sect people are equal and we must respect each other keeping in mind the teachings of humanity. In peace center, my interaction has increased with all participants



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and some of them become my friends. Before this platform, though we have been living in the same area but we never go in to each other' homes, I would like to appreciate the objective of food mela SAP as to break the stereotypes of not eating food cooked by other sect females. Miss Samreen who belongs to Ahl-e-Sunat sect invited me in her home and served me lunch, we ate food together as well as her mother met with me and Miss Samreen told her members of family about food mela and what we had learnt on this platform discussed in the meeting. In short, I want to express thanks to this platform to make my life pleasant for me as well as to my family as now I have been developing these concepts of giving space to others in my children so that in their future lives they would be the promoter of peace and tolerance in their society.”

### **Conclusion:**

To conclude it can be said that this story is not only of a female but a male' perceptions also has changed. Her husband has been playing his role to spread the concept in his society that females must be treated as human beings and they should take part in the activities of peace' promotion.

Through the efforts of developing peace, we would be having a peaceful society for everyone living in it. Though it may take some time but it will occur definitely and we all people will be having a pleasant and peaceful place in our surroundings.