

## Age is no barrier for Allah Wasai...!

Seventy years old Allah Wasai is a resident of Basti Goth Raza in Union Council Tibi Izzat of District Bahawalpur. Life has never been easy for her. Not having a baby made her husband to marry again and live with his second wife. Distressed Allah Wasai adopted her niece to live her life with.



As soon as she heard about RSPN's PSI funded Provision of Reproductive Health Services through Social Marketing (PRHSSM) project and opening up of recruitment for Community Resource Persons (CRPs), she approached the project selection team to join the project as CRP. But the team was skeptical to recruit Allah Wasai sighting her old age. She however expressed her strong willingness and commitment to work for her area through the project activities. After holding community dialogue, she was selected as CRP. With her continued dedication, honesty and hard work, she was given Business in a Box (BiB) kit in the second phase of the project. Allah Wasai received training and started selling BiB items during household visits. She used to hire a motorcyclist of her area for Rs. 50 to 100 to conduct household visits as she could not commute on foot all day long. Allah Wasai reinvested her monthly income into BiB and expanded her business. On community's demand she also managed to open a small shop in her home. One of her customers says, "We previously had no such shop in our Basti to buy the products Allah Wasai now provides us. Now we conveniently purchase women specific products and household items from Allah Wasai."

BiB is her only source of income. She now makes Rs. 1000 – 2000 per month out of BiB that helps her bear her living cost. Allah Wasai also used her BiB savings for the treatment of her niece who contracted a disease and got sick. Allah Wasai recalls, "Only because of BiB intervention, I could manage to spend Rs. 5000 on my niece. I am thankful to NRSP and RSPN who trained me and enabled me to work and earn even in this age."

Allah Wasai is passionate to continue expanding her small business to a larger scale. Her niece, now cured of her disease, also supports her in her business. Allah Wasai believes that this work should pass on from generation to generation so that this area could benefit from the reproductive health services introduced in the project. "Allah Wasai is a respectable member of our catchment area. Due to her old age, people do not only respect her but also listen to the message she spreads in the community," says the President of VHC.