

## **Haleema's story is a testament of- 'Behind every successful family there is a woman.'**

A woman in her 50s, 10 children to take care of and no source of income what so ever. Her husband in his late 60s was a daily wage laborer. With the inconsistent and uncertain income, the family could barely provide a single meal a day. It was not a smooth ride for Haleema's growing family.

"Two years ago, the Social Organiser of my area came to me to tell that I am eligible for Income Generating Grant" says Haleema. Her husband was reluctant to receive the grant but she had learned from the Community Organisation in her settlement that the fund will be a grant not a loan. Soon after discussing with her husband the plan of its utilisation, she was asked to attend a three-day long enterprise development training. She learned basics of profit making and small scale enterprise development. She received PKR 33,400 as a grant, with this she purchased stock for a small grocery shop at her house. Initially, she kept sweets, chips, biscuits, soaps, washing powder, pickle etc., She gained confidence when she started to make profits, she extended her shop and added more items such as oil, tea, sugar and salt.

During summers, she adds products to suit the needs of the weather. "Recently, I have bought two solar panels, a refrigerator and a cooler to keep cold drinks and ice cream." Excluding the daily expenses of purchasing the new stock for shop, the family is able to earn a profit of 600-800 PKR per day. The earnings help bring better food for the family, educational fee for her children and fulfills other needs at her home.

"By the grace of Allah and the support of BRACE IGG, I am living a satisfied life now. I could not send my elder children to a school for our poverty situation. Paying for education is an investment. There will be no bigger satisfaction for me when my younger children get educated." Now Haleema has enough income, her younger five daughters attend school in her area, and son attends a high school in nearby village.

