

Success Story of Transgender

Myself, Muhammad Aamir Raza, am a 38 years old she male (transgender) who is struggling to get a respectable status in society. As in the Pakistan's context, the Khawaja Sira is considered as a person who cannot contribute to the development of society. People crack jokes on us, we face rejection, discrimination and abhorrence from society and sometimes even from family.



We are attributed as entertainers and I had to prove to the society that we, the transgender have equal rights and potential. We can adopt respectable occupation and status. That thought provoked me to do something for myself. I needed finances to start any income generating activity. I had no money and no sources of financing. Nobody either individual or institution showed willingness to finance me. However; later I heard about MOJAZ Foundation that provides finances to the entrepreneurs. I met with MOJAZ's Micro-finance team, fulfilled the documentation formalities and finally I got the loan of Rs. 20,000/- on convenient monthly repayment schedule. I opened a small shop of Landa (secondhand goods). Now, I am living an independent and successful life.

Like other entrepreneurs, I foresee an expansion of my shop with product extension. I have planned to start cosmetics business parallel to my existing Landa work. Definitely I would have required investment to expand my business but now I don't feel any difficulty after dealing with staff of MOJAZ Foundation and I believe that after repaying my first loan I shall apply for second loan to utilize in expansion of my business.



I feel, we the transgender are one of the vulnerable segments of Pakistan. Still many uses the derogatory term of '*khusras*'. I belong to a poor family. I have never done any job or labor work earlier therefore, when I shared my business plan and support MOJAZ offered me, with my family, they did not support my decision as I had no savings. They had no faith in me. The main point of their concern was that who would pay the loan back. Despite feeling down and annoyed, I started off my business. I dedicated my time, energy and passion to my business and with the grace of Almighty; I am



running it successfully, earning my income and paying off monthly loan installments. Now my family is also happy.

My business has contributed a positive impact in my life. I feel very contented, protected and confident. I am financially and socially strong and living a healthy life. I have taken my first step to change the conventional attitude of society. I am not burden on my family in fact now I support my family.

I started this business with an intention to facilitate community. My business targets the poor people who can't afford expensive clothes. I offer them products on very economic prices. I have built good relationship with my customers. They give respect to me and my work. In addition to this, my business has provided employment to 01 individual; likewise he is supporting his family.

