

SanjhaVehra - a Mother's Dream

Najma is a 40 year old mother of ten who lives in the village of Zarkhel in District Shikarpur. Her husband has been bedridden for the past year. One of her children passed away because of the lack of facilities and poor environmental conditions in the village.

Najma says: “I have faced gender discrimination in our male dominant society in which women are not allowed to follow their own path and fulfill their dreams. In order to provide my family with the basic necessities as well as to educate my children, I work as a maid and in the fields. I don't want my children to face the same cruel circumstances that I have been through. I dream of a better life for my children. I always wanted them to have separate beds, lots of toys, a quality and free education and a playful environment in which they could enjoy their childhood.”



“When I see my children playing with cattle and other animals on the streets and coming back home covered with dirt from head to toe, it makes me realize that there is a lot more that I can do for them. I am certain that I am not the only woman who is facing these issues, certainly not the only one with the dreams I have been weaving. There must be many more out there whose voices are not being heard. I believe women deserve better than the way they are being treated.”

Just when Najma felt hopeless about improving her family's life, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi arrived in her village and approached the villagers with the idea of setting up a “Panjhu Vehru” (ECD Center). The villagers were so happy to hear about this that the community decided to donate a portion of land in order to make the vision a reality. Due to the presence of lady health workers, the health status of the village has improved significantly.

Najma concludes: “When I look at this PanjhuVehru(ECD Center)and my children attending the classes being conducted there, I look up and thank my Allah Sayeen that finally my children can have something out of this life. They go to the center daily and learn new things and come back home with a new story to share with me. I listen to them and notice the sparkle in their eyes, giving me new hopes of an even better future for them”.