

MY DREAM CAME TRUE

*A success story narrated by
Smt. Daizy, Group leader of
Madina Self Help Group of block
Wakura (erstwhile Lar)*

My name is Daizy, I was born in a village named as Shaidipora which is situated on the bank of river Jehlum near Sumbal of district Baramulla. I was married to Syed Manzoor of Dub - Wakura. The said village is situated on the other side of Jehlum in district Srinagar. I have three children. We were living in a joint family with my in-laws in a kacha house. My husband was a simple laborer. His monitory contribution towards the joint family was not sufficient. This was the reason that both, my husband and I were facing ill treatment and abusive language from my in laws daily. One fine morning, my in-laws threw all our belongings out of house. This was a cruel blow to my dreams. The dream, that I will give education to my children, was shattered. Both of us were badly shaken up. We were almost thrown on road, having no dwelling to live in, no utensils, no essential commodities etc; to feed at least my children. All of us were crying whole day. Many neighbors showed sympathy and asked us to live in their house. In the evening one of our relatives, living nearby, gave us



the shelter. My husband could not bear this shock, it preyed on his mind and he turned almost insane.(While reiterating her story of those days, tears rolled slowly down Daizy's cheeks).

I had heard about SGSY on radio when we were living in the joint family. One day I made it a point to visit rural development authorities and came down to Srinagar. I went straight to Project Officer DRDA , Srinagar. He offered me chair to sit. I did not tell him the above story, but I told him that I had heard on radio that there is a scheme which helps the artisans to start their own units. He said yes, we can assist you. He noted down my name and address and told me to go back home. He assured me that a team from DRDA will come to her and educate her about the scheme and its benefits. I said alright, but let me disclose it that I was disappointed, because I thought that the Project officer dodged me. But to my utter surprise, after two days, I saw the project officer with his APO and Mukhi Sevika looking for me out side my relative's house. I was so glad to see them. I brought them in. They saw this three story house where we were putting up temporarily, the project Officer, out rightly said this scheme is for BPL people. You don't seem to be BPL. We need to check your husband's name in the BPL list. This compelled me to narrate the above story to him and his team. They might have thereafter checked the list, I have no knowledge about that. The first question they put me. Do you know any craft? I told them yes. What is it? Paper matchie, I replied. Are you fully trained? Yes, I said and showed them some of my work which I was doing since the day we were thrown out of house by my in-laws. These were some gift items of paper matchie. I further said that I bring the raw material home and make it worth selling to the same person who provides me the material. Do you know some more ladies in your vicinity who do the same craft asked the Mukhi Sevika. Yes, I said. There are many more ladies who too are fully trained. Can you bring them here, Mukhi Sevika asked. Yes, but not today, because they work in the paddy fields also. After making me understand about the scheme, they left and the Project Officer asked the Mukhi Sevika to visit again and again till a Self Help Group of paper matchie is formed here.

You will not believe it that I could not sleep the whole night. I could remember the sufferings I faced. I could also remember, begging before some organizations to help my children to continue their studies. Now I could guess and hope to cross the BPL, have my own house and see my husband's health improving. Will this dream come true ? I asked this question many hundred times to myself during the whole night. Every time, I replied to myself, Yes, yes, yes ! This Yes word put more strength in me and made me strong.

However, the Mukhi Sevika came many a times to us, made every body understand about the benefits of the SGSY, succeeded to form the group. It was named as Madina Paper Matchie Self Help Group. I was made the treasurer of the group and Smt. Tahira as president. Firsty we made our little contribution and opened bank account in State Bank of India, branch Tulmullah. The DRDA Srinagar after some time transferred Rs.10,000/- to our bank account. The Bank also sanctioned Rs 15,000/ as loan in our favour, which we liquidated. The bank thereafter during 2005-06, sanctioned Rs.2,00,000/- as loan cum subsidy in our favour. Against which the DRDA transferred Rs.1,00,000/- as subsidy to our account.

Will any body believe that at present we (10 members) buy raw material of our own and sell the finished goods to local buyers at appropriate cost. We were given chance by the DRDA to sell our goods at Baltal (Sonamarg) during Amar nath yatra and in SARAS mela at Srinagar. I was also provided outlet in Kashmir Haat during 2006. You can see me and our paper matchie products in this photograph, Daizy said. (Daizy is wearing black 'burqa' in the enclosed photograph). She then stated that we request the Government to send us out side the state in the Craft bazaars and SARAS Melas also to exhibit and sell our good.

Daizy, You did not tell me about your economical and financial change, asked the writer. She replied, "I say with pride that my dream came true". My elder daughter is studying in 10th standard this time and other two children are also going to school. The health condition of my husband is improving. I have started constructing my own two room house." Isn't it un-belivable? But you have to believe it, because it is true. My this dream became true due to my own enthusiasm, efforts and, guidance of DRDA and the financial assistance provided by the Government under SGSY. I and my other members (whose financial position is also good like me) thank them all. I thank Pandit ji, (bank manager) also. Daizy, have you liquidated the bank loan, writer asked. Not fully, but we deposit the installment fixed by the bank, regularly. The banker has no complaint and is satisfied with our behavior, she said.