

MS. SAIMA, TEACHER AT JPL VOCATIONAL CENTRE

As part of its ongoing CSR initiatives, JPL developed a vocational training centre for the five communities supported by the project. The vocational centre has eight sewing machines. Women learn sewing, embroidery, knitting and art making skills. JPL provides access to furniture, classroom materials, and a female vocational teacher (Ms. Saima, who was employed from the local community as a women's empowerment initiative) who teaches the relevant skills.

Over the last two years, 23 women have received training at the vocational centre. Ms. Saima is viewed as a role model in her community. In light of the fact that she is the only female earning an income in the community, she is seen as more independent and empowered and has therefore earned the respect of many females within the community. Ms. Saima also educates the women on hygiene, sanitation and women's health, and the importance of education. Through both her direct work at the vocational centre and the role she plays within the community, Ms. Saima is leaving a lasting impact on the women and girls of JPL's community.

"I was asked to teach at the vocational centre, then I got permission from my husband and mother-in-law. Now I earn my livelihood and have purchased clothes for my child and husband. I feel proud that I am earning for myself and I am thankful to JPL for providing me with this opportunity of their Gender Action Plan."

> Saima Muhammad Saleem, Haji Usman Brohi Village

