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PAKISTAN

SNAPSHOT

USAID Helps a Widow to Enlighten Her Life!

“The houses in my village didn’t receive electricity from WAPDA grid station since my birth. Our major source of income has been embroidery for many decades and we only had the option of lighting through kerosene oil.

Shakira Bibi

USAID funded home-based solar-energy systems will be installed in 102 households of Killi Saeedabad & Killi Abdul Khaliq of UC Totazai of District Kharan.

30-years old Shakira Bibi, a widow of Village Abdul Khaliq of Union Council Totazai of District Kharan, has been generating income through hand-made embroidery which she uses to perform during day light as no house in her village has received Electricity from WAPDA Grid Station since her birth. She has two dependents who are of school-going age whereas she has no source of any other income.

By working on hand-made embroidery throughout daylight, she is able to make a monthly income of Rs. 2,500-3,000 per month against which she spends an average expense of Rs. 1,300 per month on obtaining light through kerosene oil.

50% of her sole income is spent on obtaining light for night and rest of the income is spent on her living including her children’s education expenses.

“It is very difficult for me to manage my monthly income and expenses. I have no other option except the use of kerosene oil. Usage of wood is cheaper but can cause lungs diseases. I can only work in day time as I am not able to perform hand embroidery with light generated by kerosene oil”. Said Shakira Bibi.

“Some people came and asked me about my family, my income and my expenses. They said they will install solar lighting system for our home. I was very happy when they said that it can give light after sunset. Now I will be able to continue my hand embroidery even after sunset and it will increase my earning capacity. I even don’t have to bear the cost of kerosene oil. My children will be able to study within my home”.

Shakira Bibi is very happy to see her house having light. She will be able to earn more and spend less. Her children will be able to study after sunset. They do not need to study out of home in extreme hot weather