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PROMOTE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (WLD)

ROYESH PROGRAM: LIFE AND WORK SKILLS

Under the five-year USAID Promote Program, the Tetra Tech implemented Women's Leadership Development Project (WLD) Royesh Program focuses on training 7000 young adolescent girls and women by enhancing their capabilities and equip them with life and work skills for fully materializing their potentials. This will enable them to contribute to Afghan Society in the social, economic, political, and cultural spheres in leadership roles.

“The Royesh Program made me realize how to be a better version of myself and what skills I need to be an entrepreneur. It made me a confident person who can step into a competitive market and taught me how a business functions in a country like Afghanistan.”

—Parwana, a Royesh Program Graduate

SUCCESS STORIES

Parwana: Strengthening the Global Movement of Street & Market Vendors

Last year, Parwana participated in Royesh classes where she designed and planned a project called “سرای سازی”, which means “Making a Market”. “I had a rough idea of becoming an entrepreneur, but I did not know how or where to start. The Royesh Program provided me the skills I needed as an entrepreneur. It helped me design my first Project that is current is business.

Parwana designed a dynamic idea of providing space management to small roadside businesses & vendors in the Dasht-e-Barchi area of Kabul City while she was participating in the Royesh program. She explained, “I started my business with very limited resources and received financial support from my family. I rented a place where I built small huts for small-scale vendors that sell fresh vegetables, dry fruits, fresh fruits and other goods on roadsides.” Parwana is currently providing small vendors a market space that includes space, utilities, and hygienic facilities. Her business not only adds dignity and strengthens the global movement of street and market vendors, but also provides Parwana with a sustainable income.

A Generation with Life Skills

Basic life skills are hard to find among girls in Afghanistan. Fewer young women are able to perform simple tasks, and most lack confidence, negotiation skills, and the basic knowledge of their own rights. The severity of the problem outlines a need for efforts for younger girls to be better equipped with life skills, and that is what Royesh intends to cover. So far, Royesh has achieved its primary purpose to make positive changes to learning, attitudes, and behavior of young girls. As put by Ms. Barakzai, the principal of Bibi Ayesha Siddiqah High School in Kabul: “We witness change every day. Empowerment is to know yourself, know your rights and position yourself in the society. The Royesh Program has been the most effective program in our school to date and has equipped our students with the necessary skills to function and cope with daily life.”

Similarly, the principals of Bibi Zainab Kobra High School, Akbar Pamir High School, and Mustafa Ghaznawi High School said that Royesh students are motivated and enjoy the lessons more than the students who have not received Royesh training. They mentioned that students who participated in Royesh Program are more resilient, aware, socially active, and ambitious.

Royesh has taught girls to take ownership of their lives. “We had a student who was resentful, angry, and antisocial. She joined Royesh classes and now she is now a different person who is ambitious, social, participates in group activities, and stands up for everyone’s rights.” Ms. Barakzai added, “another Royesh student was forced by her family to quit Royesh but unlike many others she negotiated with her family and was able to continue her education.”

CONTACT

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