**Questions for Secondary Education recipient for Pakistani Project (Bedari & Girls Ed)**

**What is your name and how old are you?**

My name is Maryam Khatoon. I am 21 years old and completed my graduation under GEI. Right now I am doing Masters. I have studied with the support of GEI for 3 years. I run a tuition academy in Dharyala Kahoon where more than 35 children are studying.

**What does education mean to you?**

Education to me is of high value. This is because of education that my life is changed as compared to other illiterate girls of the village. Education beyond primary level was not available at our village. Therefore, for higher secondary schooling, we needed to go 23 kilometers far from our houses. My parents bore expenses till grade 10 but after that I was able to do graduation through support from Bedari.

**How does the opportunity of education change women’s lives?**

The change education brings in lives of girls is not possible through any other thing. Education teaches women appropriate and righteous way of life. It is because of education that a woman is able to counter the violence committed against her. An illiterate woman is unable to stand for her rights due to lack of confidence. While a literate woman has the biggest support of her education. Education helps woman understand that she is an individual being other than the relationship associated to her. Education brings awareness and lets women know about their own self, needs, rights and preferences. All these aspects are ignored by the society if a woman does not possess awareness about them.

**What is your favorite subject and why?**

I always loved to read history books. History is my favorite subject. I also like Mathematics and Sociology.

**Tell us something about you that you want us to know. What do you like to do in your free time? What are your dreams?**

I hardly get free time but whenever I am free I like to work on my computer. I like to learn about health and fashion and gather different information related to them. I also learn tips for better skin through home remedies from internet.

I never gave importance to big dreams but I do have firmly decided to provide tuition to girls who go to far areas for education. I help them in appearing for exams privately. I teach the children who cannot afford the fee, free of cost. I also play my part in guiding the parents for the children who are at school going age. I do this all because of the fact that only education can change the fate of the people of my village.