



## Bag making training stories feedback

After the training program, the participants shared their stories and gave comments on the program. Some such stories are given below.

### Story of Roshini

I am a resident of the Hiyare area in the Galle district. I am married and currently running a small business of sewing clothes and bags at my house. This small business is my livelihood and I am carrying out this business through many difficulties. As I faced financial difficulties and was therefore unable to purchase raw materials. Due to a lack of machinery such as an overlock machine, I am unable to make quality final products in tailoring. Due to this, there are some difficulties in selling the final products. This training program helped me to know about many important techniques which I was not previously aware of in sewing bags. I was able to gain knowledge from the time the machine is set up for sewing the bag until the sewing of the bag is finished. This program's contents are rich in valuable information for beginners also. I believe that I will be able to produce more quality bags in the future using the knowledge I have received from this program. This will help me a lot to develop my business. Thus I especially thank Their Future Today organization and its supporters and also to Southern Province Industrial Development Authority.

### Story of Abdul

I am a resident of the Dadella- East area in the Galle district. I am the breadwinner in a family of five. I am running a small business of tailoring and bag making. I have faced many obstacles in this small business. My sewing machine is in poor condition and malfunctioning sometimes due to prolonged use. It has become a big problem for me to finish the product on time, to produce quality products, and to carry out large productions. This affected adversely to reduce my income. My hope is to get a well-functioning sewing machine to improve my business. It is only a dream for me to buy a new sewing machine as the cost of maintaining the family is high. I will be able to improve my business a lot. I gained a lot of knowledge on making bags through this program. Actually, this was a great opportunity for me to polish my skills and gather new techniques. I was able to solve a number of problems I had with sewing bags. I especially want to say that I was able

to gain knowledge very happily in this program. I really appreciate this program. This training was very important to develop our skills. I thank Their Future Today organization and its supporters and Southern Province Industrial Development Authority for organizing such a program to help poor women like us.

## Story of Inoka

I am a resident of the Dangedara area in the Galle district. I'm married and have three small kids. There is two school attending children. My son is 10 years old and my two daughters are 6 years and 4 years old. I am running this small business because my husband's income is not enough to support the family. With three children, we are facing many financial difficulties. I'm currently working on sarees and dressmaking for orders. I also sew clothes. The biggest problem facing my current business is the huge cost of buying raw materials such as beads, stones, fabric paints, fabric glue, etc. Another issue is the lack of adequate machinery in tailoring to finish the quality garment. I received very valuable advice and knowledge to start a bag-sewing. As a beginner in bag making, I was able to gain knowledge from the time the machine is set up for sewing the bag until the sewing of the bag is finished. I got a lot of energy with new updated knowledge to start sewing bags as a new product in my business. I hope to increase my income while carrying on my current business with product diversification. This training program helped me a lot to gather new ideas. I am thankful for imparting knowledge through such a program for the TFT organization, its supporters from the UK, the Sri Lankan TFT team, and Southern Province Industrial Development Authority.

## Story of Kanthilatha

I am a resident of the Magalle area in the Galle district. I'm a widower and I live with my old mother. My two sons are married. My livelihood is the weaving of Beeralu lace. I produce tablecloths, Cushion covers, Table mats, and laces for bridal dresses. But, I have faced some difficulties in my current business as the cost of raw materials is increased rapidly. Sometimes I fail to afford to buy valuable yarn for production. This bag-making training program gave me new ideas to make bags from my current production of Beeralu lace. I got a perfect knowledge of how to make a perfect bag without errors. I also learned about how to use the sewing machine without failing when sewing bags. The trainer taught us to set product prices according to the square feet of raw materials used for the product. That was a new lesson for me. These valuable training sessions helped me to improve myself to produce cloth bags without hesitation. I would like to thank the TFT organization, its supporters from the UK, the Sri Lankan TFT team, and Southern Province Industrial Development Authority.

## Story of Mala

I am married and my husband is unemployed due to an illness. I have two daughters and they

are married. I currently tailor ladies' and children's wear. Additionally, I produce weaving lace, bags, embroidered products, bottle covers, crochet laces, and pillowcases. I am suffering from finding a good market for my production. As well as, due to increasing in the cost of raw materials, my current production has decreased.

The knowledge I gathered in this training program will support my current business growth. I learned easy methods of sewing bags with new techniques. I was able to solve some problems I had related to bag sewing. I finally thank the TFT organization, its supporters from the UK, the Sri Lankan TFT team, and Southern Province Industrial Development Authority for organizing this kind of valuable session for us.

## Story of Santhika

I am a resident of the Galle area. I am married and I have two children. My old mother also lives with me. I currently do a small business making ornaments, crafts, and textiles using Batik, and Pan Reeds. I also create greeting cards using naturally dried flowers and leaves and also wedding invitation cards. I produce casual wear sarees, wedding sarees, T-shirts, and frock materials using Batik creations. As well as I produce Pan Reed's bags and table mats. My business helps my family to overcome financial obstacles.

I got a good knowledge of sewing bags by cloth through this five days training program. I was able to improve my skills and gain new knowledge. Through this acquired knowledge, I will be able to create new products like cloth handbags and school bags. I will be able to increase my income by producing new items. I especially thank Their Future Today organization and its supporters and also to Southern Province Industrial Development Authority for giving me a valuable training session.

## Story of Ramya

I am a resident of the Galle area in the Galle district. I'm single and I live with my parents. I am currently running a tailoring business called "Ramya Tailors". I sew Ladies' and children's wear, cloth bags, and cloth handy crafts. Due to the financial problems I am facing, it is difficult to get a separate place to carry out my business. Thus, I run the business at home and I have problems with space. I also face the problems of transportation of raw materials and finished garments. There are also shortages regarding the machines required for sewing. This training program is very important for me regarding my business. I was able to learn new knowledge, new techniques, and new trends in bag sewing. Before I joined this training program, I only sewed fancy handbags in my business. I got new knowledge about sewing school bags, sewing backpacks, and Rexing bags. It is very important to improve my business. The knowledge I received from this training program gave me the skills I needed to sew school bags. I am very happy to say that I have already got an order to sew some Montessori bags. This is the first time, I sew backpacks for kids. My self-confidence increased to get such an order because of

the knowledge I have gained in these few days.