

For the Sake of Survival

Mrs Fehmida Khan

I am a lady instructor in Social Welfare. We offer vocational training to girls and teach them stitching and embroidery etc. On the surface it is a technical job but we have to nurture the girls in every way. Many of these girls are dealing with multiple problems at home and are under severe stress.

I had one such girl in my class. Sumaira was quiet and withdrawn. Anyone would be if they had so many issues weighing on them; her father had passed away, that is why she was not attending regular school anymore. Her brother was unwell and he had to receive blood transfusions every three months. They had no support, financial or otherwise.

I was at a loss. I didn't know what to do. Even though we have so many students and offering financial assistance to all of them is neither possible nor useful, my heart went out to this one girl. I offered to bear her expense at the training center for the next three months and to give some financial support for the blood transfusions.

I know that our goal is to empower these women to take care of their needs, but I also understand that while they are acquiring the skills to fend for themselves, they do need some assistance. Offering someone money is not a creative or long-term solution, but sometimes that is what is needed to enable someone to take care of their own needs in the long term.

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