

Happily Occupied

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I never wanted to work. I was my husband's beloved wife, a mother of two children. Four years after our wedding, my husband fell from a roof and lost his life. I was twenty years old then. I had no clue how I would take care of my life or provide for my children. It was then that I started to work. I myself had to support my little family. Having been through all this myself, I understand the need for women to have a skill that they can rely on in time of need.

I had a woman, Sakeena, working as a maid in my house. She was extremely poor and her husband was a drug addict. Even though her husband was alive, he was a burden on the family instead of being a support for them. I asked Sakeena to send her daughter to me in the evenings to learn to stitch. This would give her a skill that she can be proud of and benefit from. Sakeena said she had neither a sewing machine for the girl to practice nor could she afford to pay for the material. I offered to let her use my machine and to supply her with fabric pieces left over from the stitching I did.

The girl was smart and learnt the work at a good pace. Soon after that someone provided them a sewing machine from Zakat money. Sakeena's daughter started to stitch clothes for people. She has now become such an expert that she can even copy the latest designs! She is now sending her other siblings to school from her modest but consistent earnings. This fragile girl who used to be frustrated with her own situation is now happily busy in her work. She has no time to brood over her woes, so she stays happy and occupied

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