



Newsletter
September 2024

INDIA –Kashmir
Vocational Training
*Dear Friends and
Supporters!*



Sanju



Priyanka



Shakainah



Riya

For several years, SB Foundation in collaboration with World Day of Prayer (WDP) have supported vocational training scholarships for young women, each organization paying 50 percent of the scholarships. In order to apply for the support via WDP the young women must belong to a Christian congregation and the training must occur in their home country. The priest, pastor, or head of congregation must sign the application and certify that the women who apply are wholesome and eager. The application is good for one year at a time; before applying for a subsequent year, the applicant must have demonstrated passing grades in her previous year. SB Foundation stand by these requirements. These rules assure us that our support is not misused but makes it possible for the students to find a job and support themselves and their loved ones after they finish their training.

The primary reason that the educational support is only for girls is that families usually invest in their sons, and this leaves little or nothing for their daughters. In developing countries, it is still common that parents expect their girls will marry, give birth to children, and be housewives, and therefore they do not need a profession or trade. But it is important that women get an education so they can decide over their own lives, and it is also important for them to contribute to the family's livelihood. It has been shown that women receive more respect from men and society in general if they have a profession and an income, so it is a win-win situation for everyone.

A happy piece of news is that for the first time we can help four young women in the northern Muslim state of Kashmir, India, start their vocational training. When SB Foundation asked Pastor Jeevan, someone in Kashmir we have worked with since the mid-2010, if there were any young women in his congregation who would like vocational training, he was very pleased. He told us of four young women in the congregation – Riya, Shakainah, Priyanka, and Sanju – who needed this kind of support, since they come from very poor circumstances – well, the whole State is poor. Thanks to the financial support from WDP and SB Foundation, both Riya and Priyanka are beginning a 3-year education to become nurses, Shakainah a 2-year training in healthcare administration, and Sanju a 2-year long teacher's program. We wish them a warm "Good Luck!"

Greetings from SB Foundation
via us on the Board, *Arne, Elisabeth, Gloria, Ivar, Lena, Roger*

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