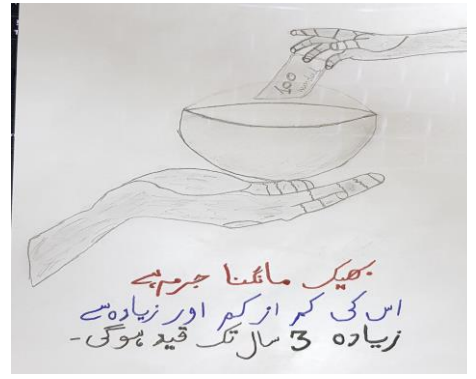


## Nain Tara

I am Nain Tara, I live in the Timber Market area in Multan. I have known VISION for the last six years, in fact I worked with VISION for some period of time. The VISION staff quite often visit my dera, and have been sharing a lot of useful information with me. During VISION staff's last visit, they educated us at the dera about our Basic Human Rights, and related legislations. We were told that begging is a punishable offence. Moreover, one loses one's self esteem too.

I have always known that it is not good for one's self respect to beg, after attending VISION's sessions, this thought was further reinforced. After the session, I reflected a lot on the fact that although I do not beg but many of my chelas do, and they might face harsh treatment as the result of begging. As it is KhwajaSiras are discriminated against. I would like to mention here that I earn my living through wadhai (a system in which khwajaSiras visit or are called upon by the families who are celebrating birthdays, marriages, or other good events. The KhwajaSiras are given money and gifts at these functions). Wadhai is my profession, this is how I earn my living, other than that I do not dance at weddings or participate in other functions for money.

So, one day, after VISION's session, I gathered all my chelas and explained to them that begging is a crime. To raise their awareness, I used the large poster as well as the 13 page long pamphlet that outlines the



Basic Human Rights, as well as the punishable offences. I told them especially about begging, and that it is illegal, and they should abstain from begging. The chelas had a huge concern that if they stopped begging then how would they earn their living. I told the chelas that we have access to ample resources.

I told my chelas that they could always learn to be beauticians, be tailors, cooks, or join me for wadhai. I am happy to report that many of my chelas agreed with me and stopped begging. I keep telling the chelas that we are also citizens of Pakistan and we must observe its laws like other citizens. Actually, it is VISION that gave us that awareness. I have not only participated in these sessions, but have been a participant in many other VISION training sessions held in Murree. These training sessions have had a very positive influence on my life. I have learned a lot about how to comport myself, and behave socially. I have learned how to speak properly and to hold conversations.

For this, I am very grateful to my VISION community.