

A Father's Dream



It's 7:00 am. Changez Khan, while sitting cross legged on the floor, in a small room of his house in Ghareebabad, is having breakfast with his wife and daughter, all clustered around the food mat. It's time for an animated family chat before everyone sets off for a long day. Changez Khan is a rickshaw driver who drives along the winding roads of the city, looking for the passengers all day, barely making ends meet. "Work is tough these days. It's hard to tell how many passengers I may get in a day", he says.

While Changez Khan strives to make a living wage, his daughter Gul Zarin, on the other has begun to follow her dreams, craving her own path to better future by studying at the Kaus-e-Kazah school. "What good would it do to educate your daughter? You should worry about her marriage and dowry instead". Changez Khan recounts while sharing some hurtful comments that he is used of hearing. Relentless in his pursuit to give his daughter the best education possible, Changez Khan pays little heed to them. "I couldn't complete my education, and its why I am still struggling to earn a living. But I don't want the same for my daughter. She should have a firm standing in society", says Changez Khan. Gul Zarin, who studies at Kaus-e-Kazah school, is absolutely proud of her father who remains as their pillar strength. She can't wait to complete her education and support her parents financially. "There came a time when we lost everything, including our home. That's when I asked baba (father) to let me work and support the family. He instantly refused, reminding me that only education would change our lives so I must focus on that", shares Gul Zarin. Changez Khan believes that days are ahead, "I am very proud of my daughter, I see her working so hard every day. I know that education will change her life in many ways", he reaffirms.