

### Vocational skills –Bridging the gap between education and employment

Vocational skills lays emphasis on **knowledge, skills and attitudes** that help students handle **practical challenges** and work situations. Everyone speaks today about 21<sup>st</sup> century skills required to be successful in the fast changing work place. What are these 21<sup>st</sup> century skills? These include **communication skills, digital skills to use smart phones and conduct ecommerce transactions as well as financial literacy and entrepreneurship to handle the gig jobs in the new economy.**

Our electrical trade students are studying repair of home appliances like mixie, air conditioners, water purifiers, microwaves and fans. During the course of the training they are getting hands on experience on these appliances. Some students have repaired the wiring in their schools. Some have done in their homes. Many students have started earning money whilst still in school. Others are becoming role models in their villages and school. The emphasis on learning a skill gives students a tremendous boost to their confidence to face the real world challenges and earn their livelihood.

This newsletter chronicles our collective work. For us, these stories reflect not just the fascinating work being done by our students and teachers, but also an understanding of how the skills the students are learning, is bridging the gap between education and employability, and preparing them, for success in their life ahead.

**Falak Fairoz student from Govt High School Qazipora Bandipora shares his experience. VT– Tehleela Navid**



My name is Falak Fairoz and I am a class x student of HS QAZIPORA. I never wanted to join a Govt school after passing mya class VIII examination but my baba was firm in his decision to enroll me in the present institute for my 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> class studies. I always had this bad image of govt schools in my mind but fortunate enough it was to get enrolled in such an institution that altogether changed my mindset.

After joining the school, a very energetic, enthusiastic and seemingly intelligent teacher came to our class and introduced herself as a VOCATIONAL TRAINER and i really didn't even understood the syllables of what she introduced herself as but within seconds she knew that what I and others were thinking in our minds. She made us understand what the word VOCATION means and what she is there for in the school. We had a very good first impression of her and she continued to attend one of our classes for days. A batch of almost 28 was ready to join her classes and to become skilled.

So there my story begins as I was slowly not only getting skilled in the trade of electronics and hardware but my perspective of seeing things changed a lot. I began to apply the things that i learned in the class to every electronic gadget at my home as my Baba works as an electronic technician. He runs a shop locally and earns our living. Whatever I used to learn in the class i used to share it with my Baba, who hardly knew how a particular component works but is a master in repairing electronic appliances.

I unknowingly began to devote extra time to this skillful subject by helping my Baba at his workplace. I remember the day when I explained my Baba how to troubleshoot a faulty appliance. He was amazed when i shared to him what is the proper method of troubleshooting the device and how to locate a fault more quickly. I am helping him in improving his skills and our beloved mam ( Miss Tehleela Navid) is helping us both. My Baba visited my school to see the teacher who is making teaching fun and way too easy and more than that he understood that she is transforming us into skilled students.

My vocational trainer even asked my Baba to provide a guest lecture on the repairing of a mixer juicer grinder and that made me realize that skill never goes to waste and more than that skill needs certification which my baba didn't have unfortunately.

I would like to thank the government who has made such initiatives of transforming India into skilled india. I want to become an electronics engineer and my vocational trainer Miss Tehleela Navid will be my inspiration and also a role model in achieving my goal.

## LAQSH Job Skills Academy—Jammu & Kashmir October 2022

01 July 2020, the date I joined HS Gariend Khurd Budgam as a Vocational Trainer. Before me, another VT Was posted in the school who left the job and I got a chance to transfer from Doda to Budgam. The time was of covid restrictions and schools were closed. I somehow managed to travel from my home district Anantnag to Budgam and joined the school. I was added to the WhatsApp group of the school and was given a time table to deliver online classes. When I started to teach the students online, only a few showed interest. Javid was one of them.

Javid was a Class 9 student of HS Gariend Khurd.. He was what they called an 'EWS child' or an 'economically weaker student'. In initial interactions I got to know him closely. He said he wanted to join a private good to get a better education but due to the economic crisis in the family, he only managed to get admission in a Govt run school. Some schools work hard to make sure these students feel included and involved in the life of the school, while others just pay lip service to the idea of inclusive education. HS Gariend, thankfully, is a school that falls in the former category.

I noticed that he was a very keen student and had a flair for learning new things. He used to eagerly wait for my class. He was the only student in the batch who joined classes regularly. I lent him a helping hand and told him that I am more like an elder brother than being a teacher to him. He started to take greater interests in Electronics and Hardware. He used to call me for clearing concepts even in the general subjects. I developed a special kind of bond with Javid. There were two reasons for that. One was his economic backwardness and the other was his extraordinary intelligence.

I taught him every concept and practical of Electronics and Hardware online and he excelled the same. He aspired to go with a Bachelor of Vocational Education in Electronics and Hardware but the colleges here don't offer the course. He now wants to go for a Master of Technology in Electronics and Communication. 2020 and 2021 sessions were completely washed out by covid 19. Despite these restrictions, Javid passed class 10 with flying colors securing 475/500 marks, topped the school and was the topper Electronics and Hardware.

I am still in touch with him and always guide him through thick and thin of life and studies. I wish Javid all the best for future endeavors.

### Shakir Ahmad Rather VT Govt High School Gariend Khurd Budgam shares Javid Ahmad Khan 's achievements



Poshker is a hilly village located in Budgam district of UT of J&K. It is located at a terrain drive of 40 km from District Headquarters. It is a very backward village where you only get a few buses to travel to the district headquarters in a day and that too via transships.

I was employed as a Vocational Trainer by Laqsh Job Skills Academy in July and was posted at HS Poshker. 01 August 2019, the date I joined HS Poshker Budgam as a Vocational Trainer. The school is located on lush green foothills of the Middle Himalayas.

Anzar was a Class 9 student of HS Poshker. He belonged to a middle class family. His father was a school teacher by profession and thus he had the flair for studies in genes. He was a very brilliant student with a thirst for studies. He wanted to fly high out of the village and wanted to excel in the field of education.

That day, when I was registering the students for the vocational course in class IX, he came to me with hope in his eyes and told me that he wanted to study electronics for a better future. The enthusiasm was unparalleled.

He was enthusiastic, a very keen student and has a flair for creativity. He was always ready to learn new things. I taught him every concept and practical of Electronics and Hardware online. He wanted to become an electronics engineer because he had a special liking for electrical and electronic circuits. He always came up with new ideas and concepts. His concepts were even submitted for the Inspire Manak awards. Inspire Manak is a Govt of India initiative to polish raw ideas of school going children and make them a reality. Anzar passed class 10 with 489/500 marks and was the topper in Electronics and Hardware.

I still help him out whenever needed.

Good wishes to the genius!!!

**Mehak Mushtaq VT Govt HS Poshker Budgam shares Sheikh Anzar Ali 's accomplishments**



## LAQSH Job Skills Academy—Jammu & Kashmir October 2022

I Rabia Hashim, a Vocational Trainer at HSS Bemina Budgam, here I am going to introduce some stories and successful achievements of my Electronics and Hardware students who inspired me a lot to work in this institution, during this interval I not only train the students but they also taught me a lot. It was a quality time to spend here with the students as I came to know what students are thinking at this level and I had to first know the students then I started to teach them, make them learn new things except the main subject and make them understand how they can manage their gadgets in life.

It was the year 2019-2020 year, when students were admitted in my Electronics and Hardware class, firstly students were very excited about this new subject. When I told them about the registration, they brought their parents when I restricted certain students not to get admitted. They find this trade interesting; they start learning with full interest. After that the other batches found it very interesting and began to take part in every field. In this batch, there was a student, Mohammad Imran who is a disabled student by vision, in spite of that he showed so much interest in ICT, electronic tools and wants to know more about projects.

In 2020-2021 year, due to accommodation problems, students were sectioned in school. First I was told to take Vocational to only one section, but the other section made hue and cry in school, they went with applications to HOI that arrange vocational class for them also. In this year, a student Hafiz Ahmed has already shared his videos during external assessment and was very keen interested in learning about electronics. He wants to concentrate on the drone system, one of the student namely Mubashira was selected in INSPIRE on district level for doing a project on drones.

In 2021-2022, during this year, the student wants to learn more and more. In 9th class, one of the students told me that if a cycle works on air tubes, why can't we make it work on petrol, how we can make an engine. Students are so much interested to learn about different electronic components and how we can connect components to make a project. They on daily basis come with mini projects and want to implement upon that. They are much more interested in practical work but unfortunately there are no facilities available due to less equipment like RO purifier, microwave even, AC etc. even though I have brought my

**Rabiya Hashmie VT from Govt Higher Secondary School Bemina Budgam shares her experience.**



brought my own components like Passive, active components, transformer etc to facilitate students so that they feel themselves more interested towards practical work. One thing that totally surprised me was that the girl students are coming forward to learn about electronics. They come up with kettles, iron, blowers, phones for repair and want to repair things themselves, they told me when our mam is doing this work, so why not we. I have promised students that soon we will bring equipment so that your practical work will run-on a long-term basis in order to make every possibility to make your future best in Electronics.

My students always assure me that we will do the best in the coming future in the electronics subject and make my name.

My best wishes to all of my students.

## LAQSH Job Skills Academy—Jammu & Kashmir October 2022

This is Mehraj ud Din Magray, working in Laqsh Job Skills Academy as a vocational trainer under Electronics and Hardware trade in BHS Gotlibagh Ganderbal. I am delighted to share my stories and achievements during my service so far.

Year 2019, When the Electronics & Hardware trade was introduced in schools, Students were hesitant and reluctant to join the course as it was totally a new concept for them. It took lot of effort to counsel them and to assure them that the course will be beneficial for them for their future endeavors.

Gradually I gained the confidence of students and they joined the course. And then unfortunately due to Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020, schools were shut and they could not attend classes and I started online classes and for Practicals I used to go to the nearby community to give them hands on experience to the lab equipments and through this way I manages to keep the students intact with the practicals as well as theory classes and students passed the examination with high grades. In 2021-2022 sessions, the classes are running smoothly with great enthusiasm among the students.

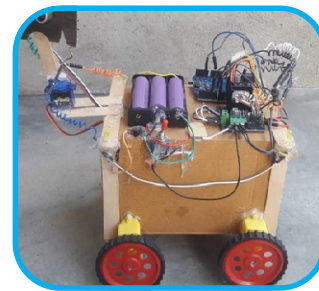
I am extremely delighted to share my achievements as one of my pass out student Namely **Hilal Ahmad Shah**, a brilliant technophile, disciplined and determined student has done wonders in class activities. He is technically very sound in resolving issues in home appliances with medium to advanced level PCB repairing. He has also opened his Youtube Chanel "**HB TECHS**" where he showcases his technical skills by uploading innovative videos on technology and repairing work.

Interestingly Hilal Ahmad has worked on a lot of mini projects like Flood Alert Model, ATM Machine prototype, Obstacle Avoiding Robot and various others. He got first position in district Ganderbal after submitting his project "**Flood Alert Model**" for Inspire awards.

In his words " I want to clear the JEE entrance examination to get admission in top IIT'S so that I would be a more successful professional to serve the country in the Electronics field".

I am hopeful that many more students like him will pass out of this school in Electronics and Hardware trade under my guidance. Wishing all of my students lots of luck.

**Mehraj ud Din Magray VT from Govt BHS Gotlibagh Ganderbal** shares story of his hardworking



Achan is a village in district Pulwama situated 15kms from main district on the boundary with district Shopian. In this village you hardly get any transport to reach the main road. People of this village travel by foot to reach the main road which is 2 to 3 kms to get any transport.

Tajamul is a class 10th student who belongs to a poor family but his thinking is that he was born in a poor family but he would like to die rich. He finds Electronics and hardware courses as if especially created for him. His approach and curiosity towards the subject reflects a lot of good things. He remained topper in all class tests and showed a lot of interest in theory as well as in practical classes. He wants to excel in this field and surely will help him to accomplish his dream.

**Ishfaq Hassan Dar VT from Govt Hr. Sec. School Achan Pulwama** shares story of Tajamul Ahmad .



## LAQSH Job Skills Academy—Jammu & Kashmir October 2022

This is **Mustaqeem Beigh**, a vocational trainer at HSS Shadipora, Bandipora. Here I am going to introduce you to some stories and achievements of my Electronics students who inspired me a lot to continue this job as I faced many challenges during these years being from a remote District and posted at another district which is far from my residence.

**Year 2019-2020:** During this year, students were admitted in my Electronics class. Initially students found this subject very tough as was new to them but later they found it very interesting. They start learning it with enthusiasm. Today they are very much interested in vocational subjects.

**Atif Ahmad**, a student who is currently in 11<sup>th</sup> class and has opted Electronics as 5<sup>th</sup> subject. He is more interested in this vocational subject. Once he asked me about the future of vocational subjects. After I explained to him he promised to continue my future in the Electronics subject as he found it more interesting. He has also made many projects like the dc motor model, hope he will make his future bright in this subject.

**Year 2020-2021:** During this year students begin to enjoy more in practicals. One of the students, **Irfan Ahmad**, whose father is running an electronics repairing shop, told me that after reading the electronic components, symbols in this vocational subject, he makes his father's work more easy by drawing the circuits. He is helping his father in his shop. He said if he didn't get any govt. job, he will continue to run his own electronics business. He wants to expand his father's business in a more technological way. Luckily the same batch shined in board exams with flying marks in electronics and Alhamdulillah we got 100% result.

**Year 2021-2022:** During this year, students are very charming in these subjects. They made many models like grass cutters etc. They have also submitted projects for the Inspire award. They want to do more practical's in this subject. But due to non availability of materials, equipment's like water purifier, microwave oven etc, they seem to be disappointed. I promised them that we will bring these equipment so that they will fulfill their wishes.

Our students inspire us by their courage and perseverance, and are a reminder that obstacles can be overcome when you have just one person cheering you on to the finish line.

**Mehraj ud Din Magray VT** from Govt BHS Gotlibagh Ganderbal shares story of his hardworking Student **Hilal Ahmad Shah**.



Being successful is the desire of all of us residing over this lovely planet. It does not matter whether the concerned person is a child, youth or the old aged, at each and every stage of our wide life span, it is our inbuilt desire to be successful and proceed forward consistently towards more massive success. The mentality of competing with each other can frequently be noticed at any of the places including schools, colleges, coaching, work fields including organizations, offices, etc to name a few. As a comparison to our efforts towards the works to get success, we often expect much more and want success to knock our doors very soon.

We are the students who belong to the area near to LOC. Since we belong to the border area we are facing a lot of problems and very few opportunities to gain knowledge of skill development.

I have opted the electronic and Hardware trade in level 1 and level 2 with a job role Field Technician and other home appliances. I learned this subject with very basic and with theory and applied this to practical. I gained so much from this subject and am very much interested to opt in future.

Thanks to Vocational Subject and Our Trainer **Sumit Kumar Gupta** for bringing us such opportunities.



**Syed Yasir Ali Kazmi** student Govt.High School Uchhad Mendhar Poonch shares his experience.  
VT— **Sumit Kumar Gupta Navid**

## LAQSH Job Skills Academy—Jammu & Kashmir October 2022

I am Krishan Dev working as a vocational trainer in govt. Hr. Sec. School Kore Punnu, Kathua .i want to share the story of my students with you .

All of the students of electronic and hardware class enjoy this subject very much, they find it very interesting because it deals with knowledge that they can implement in their daily life.

Subam Sharma, one of the students of level 3 is very much interested in this subject. His father runs an electronics shop and now he helps his father in his business.

He wants to expand his father's business; he also voluntarily takes part in every practical work in school.

Recently our school ordered 5 new fans for new classrooms, and all the fans are installed by the students of level 3 and level 4 .

They are very happy and feel confident after performing this practical.

Recently one class room wiring got burnt due to a short circuit. My principal wants to call an electrician . But I assured him that I can find the fault and rectify it.

Then I took 2 students with me and made the room operational again within 2 hours. Our principal is very much happy with our work.

Finally, I want to share that all the students are very happy and very interested in electronic and hardware subjects. They suggest their younger brothers and sisters take this subject as a vocational subject in class 9 .

I wish them all the best for their bright future.

**Krishan Dev VT from Govt. Hr. Sec. School Kore Punnu, Kathua shares story of his Student Subam Sharma .**



**Abdul Majid Mir VT from Govt.High School Hari-budha Poonch shares stories of his Students Aabida Bano and Mohd Afsal .**

I am Abdul Majid Mir , a Vocational Trainer at HS Hari-budha Poonch. Haribudha is a hilly village located in Poonch district of UT of J&K. It is located at a terrain drive of 35 km from District Headquarters. It is a very backward village where you only get one bus to travel to the district headquarters in a day.

During my tenure at school, I trained the students but they also taught me a lot. It was a quality time to spend here with the students. I came to know what students are thinking; then I started to teach them to learn new things, especially how they can manage their household gadgets.

Aabida Bano and Mohd Afsal of class 9th and Sohail Ahmed of 10th class are very intelligent students and hard workers. These students travel a lot of distance to reach school and also belong to poor families. Sohail wants to become an engineer in Electronics. Every time Sohail inspires me in class. My students always assure me that we will do the best in the coming future in the electronics subject and make my name proud. My best wishes to all of my students.

