

## CASE STUDY

**Name of the respondent: Sajad Ahmad Shah**

**Project: Hospitality Training Programme: Chef Trade**

**Implementing partner: REACHA**

### 1. Background

In Ahgam Handwara, unemployment posed a significant threat to the community. This made my family's and my own life uncertain. In the midst of this I, Sajad Ahmad Shah, found my path to success. As I roamed around my native place, I came across the IIFL Foundation's skill development programme being promoted passionately for youths as myself. Little did I know that this encounter would change my life forever.

### 2. Problem statement

Motivated by the desire to pursue a career at an early age, I made the life-changing decision to join the Hospitality Training Programme: Chef Trade offered by at Kupwara (An aspirational District in Kashmir).

Despite belonging to an underprivileged class, the challenges of managing daily expenses could not deter my determination. With unwavering support from my trainers, who left no stone unturned in training me, I managed to overcome the financial constraints that came my way.

### 3. Steps taken to address the problem and outcome of the efforts

The course, which commenced in February 2023, exceeded my expectations in every way. The curated content provided comprehensive knowledge and skills crucial to professional cooking.

From the very first day of the course, I was captivated by the enriching learning experience. The classes, held from 10 am to 3 pm, immersed us in a world of culinary expertise. The course content covered not only the technical aspects of cooking but also essential soft skills, including workplace professionalism and effective communication. It was a holistic program that prepared us to thrive in the culinary industry.

### 4. Future goals/plans related to the problem and solution if any

The outcome of this transformative journey has been nothing short of remarkable. Currently, I am proudly employed as a chef at Partisan Resorts in the picturesque town of Phalgam. The position not only provides me with a monthly salary of 14,000 rupees but also includes food and accommodation. The joy and pride my family feels are immeasurable, and I owe it all to the support and opportunities extended to me by IIFL Foundation.

I am deeply grateful for the life-changing impact this course has had on me, and I wholeheartedly recommend it to others seeking a rewarding career path. With a newfound

determination, I aspire to become a head chef and, in the future, fulfill my dream of opening my own restaurant in Kupwara, where flavors and traditions will intertwine.

My story stands as a testament to the power of skill development and the transformative opportunities provided by organizations like IIFL Foundation. Together, let us inspire and empower others to turn their dreams into reality and create a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

## 5. Photographs

