

IMPROVED HEALTH AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

REALL HAS BEEN WORKING IN PAKISTAN TO BUILD A COMMERCIALLY VIABLE AFFORDABLE HOMES MOVEMENT SINCE 1992, AND HAS PARTNERED WITH HOUSING DEVELOPER, ANSAAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY (AMC) SINCE 2014.



FARAH*, A PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER FROM FAISALABAD IN PAKISTAN, FOUND HER LIFE TRANSFORMED AFTER PURCHASING AN AFFORDABLE HOME.

BEFORE THE MOVE

Farah and her husband originally lived with their two adult sons in a highly polluted and busy area of Faisalabad city. During their time living there Farah was severely hindered by a form of arthritis. With terrible joint pains in her legs, arms, and hands, she found any movement painful, and felt too uncomfortable to ever leave the house on her own. In her work as a primary school teacher, she soon required assistance in her classes. Although her doctor was able to provide her with medication, Farah was told that she would never recover, and that in a few months she would be unable to walk.

A CHANCE FOR A NEW LIFE

Farah's son noticed an advertisement for Safiya Homes on a roadside notice board. Believing that she would soon be unable to work, Farah resigned from her teaching role and the family decided to buy a house on the site, as it was affordable and of high quality. Safiya Homes sits in the peri-urban area of Ada Johal, a 30-minute drive from the city centre of Faisalabad.

LEAVING THE CITY

Farah and her family moved into their new home in November 2018, where they found the air cleaner and the neighbourhood quieter. Then, Farah noticed that her condition had started to improve. She was able to take short walks around the estate. She soon felt so much better that she stopped needing to take her medication. Eventually she decided to teach from her own house and started with a class of just three. It proved successful and soon grew to 18 children studying at various levels. Her son now also assists, teaching older children after his university classes. They currently offer academy standard teaching at reduced prices, allowing educational inclusion for all on the estate.

"I PUT MY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT DOWN TO THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, CLOSENESS TO NATURE, AND ME WALKING AROUND THE ESTATE."

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FUTURE

When Reall's partner AMC found out about Farah's home school, they suggested a commercial property should be rented or bought to expand the school even further. As a result, once Farah's son completes his university studies, they will start their own academy in a nearby building outside their home.

THE IMPACT

Farah found that moving outside of the city to a low-cost quality home provided her with a better livelihood and the chance to apply her teaching skills within her own school, which has offered employment opportunities for herself and her family. Recently, she visited her doctor in the city, and described his shock at how much she had improved. She puts her improved health down to the cleaner environment, being able to walk freely and being closer to nature. Farah's story is a great testament to the transformative effects of decent and affordable homes.

*Name changed on request.