



A graduate of Tarsain and Blinkley's six-month sewing class proudly accepts her certificate of achievement during a recent ceremony. While in the course, the women mastered the fundamentals of tailoring and hand-embroidery.

Kabul apparel facility graduates all-women class

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KABUL, Afghanistan – A group of 150 women recently graduated from a six-month sewing course provided by Tarsain and Blinkley, a local non-governmental organization. The class was organized in an effort to expand the women's skill sets and equip them with the ability to thrive in the business world.

"This is the first large-scale apparel facility in post-Taliban Afghanistan," said Sunita Nabicadaeh, director of the women's training program. "Afghans were in deep trouble, and vocational training is the best way to help our people succeed. We are pleased to be able to provide better opportunities for ladies."

The students, who mastered the fundamentals of tailoring and hand-embroidery, learned of the course through a survey conducted by Tarsain and Blinkley.

"Before (the course), I couldn't take a needle in my hand," said Fazila Kariger, a 19-year-old Kabul resident. "But now I can sew for my family and all kinds of people. I'm happy

that I'm a tailor."

Fazila, along with approximately two-thirds of the graduating class, will continue to work at Tarsain and Blinkley's local facility. The graduates' primary duties will be producing uniforms for the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army. The remainder of the class will likely work from home, producing traditional products that will be sold to help supplement their families' incomes, said Nabicadaeh.



Tarsain and Blinkley, established in 1998, has come a long way in developing its training programs, according to Nabicadaeh.

"We published a book – an in-house curriculum," she said. "(The women) will be able to make a pretty good living doing this."

The students, ranging from ages 18 to 30, garnered a sense of pride along with the potential to help provide for their families.

"Before this class I was jobless," Kariger said. "Now, my family is very proud. They will be very happy to see my degree." 