

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Hi my name is Parinaz Asareh and I'm part of the Raheroshd cooperative here in Tehran, Iran. Established in 1986, this cooperative was originally a daycare. But there was a need to provide full education for children, so the teachers, who were all women, formed a cooperative. It has helped families overcome financial difficulties, and provided a space for the teachers and parents to share the best ideas to provide a good education for their children.

My first encounter with the cooperative was within my family. Most of my family is situated in Dezful which is southwest city in Iran. About 25 years ago they formed a cooperative, and with the limited resources they had, they bought some land on the outskirts of Dezful and built some green houses to grow and provide fresh vegetables for the community. But that was only the beginning. Today, my this cooperative provides families whatever they need ranging from holding classes and also organizing cultural events for the towns people.

When I was 15 years old me and 6 of my friends decided to form a cooperative to organize different cultural and scientific events in our school. We did this so other students could also learn about cooperatives and have strong a foundation they could grow on. This cooperative prepared me for where I am now.

After 12 years of studying in Raheroshd and using my past experiences in the cooperatives, I am now a part time tutor and a member of the Raheroshd cooperative. Now I can clearly see how the cooperative teamwork has affected my upbringing and how it's creating a new way of teaching.

It has been a rewarding journey for me to work alongside people and teachers who have given their time and energy for me to be where I am today, and I hope for more people to have the cooperative experience.