

SUCCESS STORY-3: PIARA'S NURSERY SINGS THE DIALOGUE OF LIFE

An industrious and self-confident person can never remain poor for whole life. Punctuality and hard works lead a person towards the peak of success. Mrs. Piara Begum is an example in this regards. She lives with her husband Md. Faizur Rahman at Kamtoli of Chandgoan union of Laksham upazila under Comilla district. She got married when she completed class five at the age of 10 years. She comes from poor back ground and her husband was poor too who earns his livelihood by pulling rickshaw but often he used to get sick. Though the family was small her sick husband can hardly meet the basic needs of the family. The poverty was the lifelong associate with them. Whenever he got sick his tiny boy used to pull rickshaw van which Piara Begum did not like. The education of children was stopped due to financial crisis. Every now and then they had to starve and pass nights without any food. In many occasions she was pushed out to her parents' home for long without being looked after her.

In such a situation she was desperately looking for some works which can support her children. In this time of crisis Piara Begum was selected for tree plantation and environment awareness training organized by a local NGO called Peoples' Welfare Foundation (PWF) under the financial assistance of BNF. At the end of the training she



received 50 saplings of tree plants as grants which she planned within her homestead compound. She learnt from the trainings how to prepare seed bed, seedling, use of balanced fertilizer and use of pesticides etc. She applied knowledge of training and raised trees. The growth of fifty plant saplings influenced her to become a nursery woman to fight against poverty. She showed her interest to raise a nursery if supported. BNF encouraged her to start nursery allowing a loan of Tk. 20,000 and by providing plants and trainings.

After receiving the grant she purchased 6 decimal agriculture lands, where she

grew 10,000 saplings of different plants which she and family members worked hard on caring and nursing them like her own children. The healthy sapling of Piara's nursery attracted customers from surrounding areas. She sold at a rate of Tk.10 per sapling. This was a turning point in her life and she earned about Tk.100,000 from that lot. This brought her fortune and continued growing nursery employing 5/6 persons. Now Piara Begum is a successful entrepreneur running a profitable nursery and an example of self-reliant woman in the vicinity. She is happy now and acquired assets and property.

At present she has 12 decimals homestead land, 15 decimals agriculture land, one auto rickshaw, one water pump, one tube-well, sanitary latrine, poultry birds, one semi-pucca house, a running nursery of 10,000 saplings and Tk.10,000 in cash in hand. Her husband and elder son drive the Auto Rickshaw by rotation. She is now always busy with her nursery, poultry and vegetable gardens. She is financially solvent now. Every year she earns about Tk. 50,000- 60,000 from the nursery. There is peace in the family and no misunderstanding between husband and wife.

Now Piara Begum has a plan to distribute 5,000 plant saplings to the poor people, different institutions, mosques, temples etc free of charge. She provides flowers in different national and international day celebrations free of charge.