

SUCCESS STORY-4: A DISABLED MAINA & HER SUCCESS

“Where there is a will there is a way”, disabled Maina Khatun of Kushtia has proved this proverb through her creativity, hard work and commitment. She comes from Adarsha gram (destitute rehabilitation) village of Sadarpur union of Mirpur upazila under Kushtia district. Maina has struggled against extreme poverty and established herself as a successful person in the society.



Disabled Maina Khatun did not continue her study after primary level. Since then she lived a confined life within four walls of the house due to her disability. The poor father arranged her early marriage with Mr. Faraj Ali, a day laborer earning only Tk.50.00 per day. The couple was living under a constant economic crisis and extreme

poverty. After few years the couple was endowed with two daughters and a son. Poverty was so much and so acute that they had to starve often and occasionally can afford to have meals twice a day. Once her elder son was seriously ill but she had no money for his treatment. She sold all her poultries and managed some money for the treatment. Thus life became a burden for them and they were on the verge of begging.

She was always thinking of getting rid of poverty and hunger for her children and wanted to work for earning income. During her tough time, she heard about ‘URMI Foundation’ a local NGO financed by BNF that was working in the area for improving economic conditions of deprived and poverty stricken people like her. She applied and was called by the organization and got herself registered as a group member in 2007. This membership showed her a new world of possibilities and hope. She received practical training on sewing and tailoring from the NGO. Later on she also received trainings on goat rearing, safe drinking water, health and nutrition, sanitation, etc.

After the completion of sewing and tailoring training course she received a sewing

machine with accessories as grant. Subsequently she also received goats and sets of sanitary latrine materials as grant after training on those subjects.



Through repeated training and counseling from BNF supported NGO Maina Khatun has become more confident and determined to struggle for a better life. She opened a tailoring shop in her house and started making dress for

customers. She understands the customers' choice and accordingly supplies their orders. From tailoring shop she started to earn Tk.200 - 250 per day. During each Eid season she earns extra income of Tk.8,000- 10,000. Her tailoring business is growing day by day. Simultaneously she was rearing cattle and goats and her cows and goats started giving birth of calves. She is getting regular income from selling goats and milk.

She has a vegetable garden on her own premises from which she gets supplies of fresh vegetables for the family. Her business is growing every day and getting better than the previous day. Her wisdom and hard work produced results in economic wellbeing of her family.

Maina understands the value of education and sends her children to school. One of her daughter is a student of Class X and the boy is a student of primary level. Maina together with her husband is working hard to maintain a supportive and happy family. Now she is able to save money after maintaining all family expenses. Her assets include two cows, six goats, running tailoring business, homestead, sewing machines, tube well, sanitary latrine, brick-built house, kitchen room, livestock shed, furniture, fan, trees and cash in hand.