

SUCCESS STORY- 6: MONJU'S LIFE HISTORY AND HER SUCCESS

Monju Biswas was born to a couple Bishnu and Prafulla Biswas in Benipur village of Shailkupa upazila under Jhenaidah district. They were very poor and living with hardship. Manju was married as early as 13 years of age when a student of Class IX with Paritosh Biswas. From the very beginning they were not happy couple. She was just living her life somehow with



misery of extreme poverty, misunderstanding and quarrel. Moreover, they were victim of social discrimination from neighbors because of being low caste Hindus. She was not allowed to use the common tube-well because of caste woman. After few years of marriage when she becomes mother of a child, her husband died suffering from diarrhea in 2008 due to using contaminated water. There was no arrangement of pure drinking water in the family. Monju was shocked and devastated at the death and thinking of suicide. She is still scared to remember those days of plight and agony when she couldn't provide her dying husband a glass of safe drinking water.

After the death of her husband Monju returned to his father's house. Her father was either working as a day laborer or doing small business earning little income. It was hard for him to manage enlarged family with his limited income. Monju with her sisters and mother used to work in handicraft center to supplement family income. She had to sell her gold ornament to save her daughter puja's life while infected from diarrhea. In that year, Monju joined Prova Society and received training on water and sanitation awareness and received materials for sanitary latrine as grant. She also got a chance to work as a facilitator in the society and earn money.



In the meantime Monju bought a goat at Tk. 3,000 from her past savings which started giving her calves. By selling goats she constructed her hut on her father's land and got a tube-well from Prova Society. She has now her own house. Now Monju has a regular income from tailoring, goat rearing and teaching. She has cattle of taka 30,000 now. She dreams to extend her farmland and educate her little daughter to make her a Doctor.

- Prova Society is a local NGO where BNF has provided grant.

