

## **SUCCESS STORY -7: JESMIN AKTER HANDICRAFT PRODUCER**

Jesmin Akter was born in the year 1991 at Aklasa village situated near Mohastangarh in Shibpur upazila of Bogra district to a poor couple. She is the youngest of three daughters of her parents. She has no brother and both of her elder sisters are married. One of her brother-in-law is a rickshaw van puller and another is a day laborer. Her father is a rickshaw puller too and his daily income is about Tk.120-150. He has been suffering from Asthma for last two years which reduced his working ability. From



**Jesmin Akter**

her childhood Jesmin Akter was interested in the study. Despite of poverty and all the family troubles she was continuing her BA study. But due to financial problems she could not attend college regularly and was forced to stop. Her parents considered Jesmin a burden for the family and were thinking of her marriage.

It became impossible for her father to bear her educational expenses as well as to pay weekly loan installment and maintain the family at the same time. To augment family income she started teaching 5 students as a private tutor earning Tk. 500 per month. But with this small money neither the family could be run properly or sufficient to bear her education expenses. She was looking for another work to increase income so that she can continue study.

An opportunity came when Polly Unnayan Prokalpo (PUP), a local NGO supported by BNF invited application for skill development training on Handicraft at Aklasa village. Jesmin immediately joined the training program as a participant. The training duration was six months, started from 1 April, 2010 to 30 September, 2010. After getting six month training she becomes a skilled handicraft artisan and during her off time she started to produce quality handicrafts for export and initially earning Tk.1200-1500 per month. The income has increased gradually day by day. Now she is earning more than Tk. 2000 per month which helps her to continue her study as well as contributes to family income. Along with her father's income Jesmin has improved their two room mud

house putting CI sheet on the roof in place of straw roof. Jesmin is no longer a burden for the family now rather considered as an asset. She is leading the family and emancipated it from severe financial crisis. Her future plan is to get higher education in handicraft and promote the SME in handicraft export.





