

SUCCESS STORY- 8: SHYAMOLI SARKER- A STRUGGLING LADY

Shyamoli Sarker is the youngest daughter of late Aboni Sarker comes from a remote village called Kunda under Nasirnagar union of Brahmanbaria district. She has grown up in an ordinary family where almost all her brothers and sisters were illiterate except for herself. As she was the youngest one everybody loved her and helped her studies. She appeared in Higher Secondary Certificate examination in 2006 and passed. Due to financial crisis she could not continue her study any more.



After her HSC she was sitting idle and trying to manage some kind of job to earn money. She wanted to contribute to the poor needy family. She knocked from door to door of offices for a job but failed and frustrated. In this situation once she was informed that a local NGO called Shikha Samaj Kalayan Sangstha (SSKS) is going to implement a project on Pre-primary Education in non-formal sector for poor children with the financing of BNF. Shyamoli took it as a great opportunity and applied for the post of a teacher. Later on she was selected and joined as a teacher and continued the job from 2007 to 2010.

During the tenure of her teaching service she participated in different awareness raising and skilled development training programs. Training courses made her conscious, confident, and committed to a cause. She became a successful and popular teacher for primary level students. She drew attention of parents who offered her to teach their children as private tutor. She started giving tuition as an extra job besides her main profession of school teaching.

Shyamoli has been paid a salary of Tk.1000 per month from the school initially up to 2009 which was increased to Tk.1850 later on. But she was earning a satisfactory amount from tuition charges as extra income which is higher than her salary income. Shyamoli is not married yet and is contributing money to her needy family.

Shyamoli Sarker is a bright example of NGO driven training programs on social

awareness and skills. She has developed interest in many different social issues like education of under privileged children, health and sanitation for poor, raising awareness on right, health and nutrition, awareness through communicating with Govt. and NGOs and ensuring access of people to public services.

SUCCESS STORY-10: CHABI RANI-A HARD-WORKING WOMAN

Mrs. Chabi Rani Das used to live with her husband Mr. Manik Chandra Das and his family in the village Koitara under Laksam upazila in Comilla. Manik had a long cherished desire to work in a foreign country as an immigrant labor to improve their economic conditions and get rid of poverty. The family managed required amount of money borrowing partly from money lenders at high interest rate and partly from assets mortgage with difficulties and gave it to a local recruitment agent. But the luck was not in favor of them and the recruitment agent was a fake agent cheated them, robbed money and just ran away. Manik was left helpless and frustrated. The money lenders started pressing for loan recovery, etc. The family saw no ray of hope to live with. The incidence was a great blow to their family life particularly for Chabi Rani who was so proud that her husband was going abroad to earn enough to bring solvency to the family. However, finding no other alternatives Manik started working as a day laborer.

At this point of time Chabi Rani heard about People's Welfare Foundation, a local NGO providing different IGA trainings supported by BNF. Chabi Rani received training on tailoring and sewing, goat rearing and health and sanitation. She was trained in sewing and tailoring intensively for two months and did well in the training. After having a successful training, she received a sewing machine with some accessories and started tailoring as an occupation. She opened a tailoring shop in his house. Soon her business grew and goodwill spread around the locality. The tailoring is the turning point of her life. She worked hard and earned an income of Tk. 4,000-5,000 a month.



During Eid and Puja season her business was booming.

Gradually their economic conditions improved and savings accumulated, she thought of sending her husband abroad to fulfill his desire to become an immigrant worker. She began to work harder to arrange required money to send him abroad and their attempt was successful this time. Manik is working in Dubai now and sending money back home regularly. They are having double earnings from business and remittances.

Mrs. Chobi Rani has become an icon in his locality for contribution to the family getting rid of poverty. Her success story is known to all and people get inspired from her exemplary activities. She has a plan to expand her business as a large enterprise so that poor and unemployed women can work there. She also has plan to start a dairy and poultry farm in the locality to supplement the shortage of milk and meat in the area. Now she is planning to educate her two daughters with higher education.