

Case Study-01

Name : Sonia
Age : 16 years
Mother name : Selina Begum
Father name : Huzur Ali
Village : Bamunia (Khiyarpara),
Upazala : Shahajanpur, Bogra
Membership : ARC, Phase-I

Sonia was born in a poor family at Bamunia Village of Aria Union under Shajahanpur Upazilla. Day labourer Huzur Ali and Selina Begum was happy with their daughter, Sonia - though poverty was their regular partner. Huzur Ali admitted Sonia at a nearest primary school and also Sonia started to receive education like other children. Days were passing, Sonia became adolescent from children.

A heavy storm blown over their family. Family conflict separated Selina Begum from Sonia and her father Huzur Ali. Sonia became helpless when she was at class-IX. Daily household activities took place in her life and she was dropped out from her school. Every time she felt her school, but there was no way.

At this time, South Asia Partnership (SAP) - Bangladesh established Adolescent Resource Centre at her village Bamunia under the project- *"Empowerment of Women and Adolescent Girls"*. Sonia became a member of ARC (Phase-01) and started to learn more about adolescent's issues like-(i) Bad effects of Early Marriage, (ii) Adolescent's Nutrition, (iii) Health, Hygiene and Cleanliness, etc. She also developed her skill on vegetable gardening through trainings of the project. Sessions of ARC on Early marriage visualized the causes of conflict between her mother and father.

After a few days, Huzur Ali took initiative to put marriage her at the age of 15. Sonia knows the effects of early marriage and she was aware about the causes of their family conflict. So she got afraid. She discussed with the Education Facilitator Ms. Shanaz and requested to save her. Staffs and Advisory committee of the project arranged a meeting with Huzur Ali. After an hour long discussion, Huzur Ali realised and agreed to release Sonia from early marriage. At the same time the committee members requested Huzur Ali to send her at school again and the members made commitment to help him for Sonia's re-admission. Huzur Ali agreed and Sonia started to attend at school again.

In the meantime, Sonia received high productive seeds from the project and established a vegetable garden at her residence. Vegetables from the garden faced the family needs of vegetables and their daily family expenditure reduced.

Sonia appeared at the Secondary School Certificate Examination'2010 and now waiting for a good result. Huzur Ali says, "Sonia will be a primary school teacher and her marriage will be easier then before."

Case Study-02

Name : Babuli
Age : 15 years
Mother name : Anjuara Begum
Father name : Md. Bablu Miah
Village : Bamunia (Khiyarpara),
Upazala : Shahajanpur, Bogra
Membership : ARC, Phase-II

Babuli is a girl with disability and also a member of ARC-Phase-II. She was born in a poor family of Bamunia Khiyarpara. Her father lives with his family in the house of father in law. "I do not agree to admit Babuli at first group of ARC, because her playing mates and other community peoples call her in bad names. They also treat her as a mad and make unnecessary jokes with her", says Anjuara- while Grameen Alo staffs were screening of Adolescents for ARC, Phase-II.

Grameen Alo has a Sector for developing peoples with disability. So the organization made a commitment to her parents that the disability of Babuli will reduced, if she participate in the project activities. Anjuara agreed and Babuli became a member of ARC of Phase-II.

Later on, Mr. Jewel Alam Khodokar and Ms. Sayeda Sultana, therapist of Grameen Alo successively discussed with Babuli and her family members. The two therapist identified Babuli as a patient of middle-class intellectual disability.

Then the organization deputed therapist Ms. Sayeda Sultana at ARC for two days. The therapist discussed about the problems of Babuli with the members of ARC and suggested them to make good behave with Babuli and to encourage her at ARC's activities. Also the therapist provided some tips to the Education Facilitator Ms. Shanaz for Babuli.

ARC members realized and they started to play with Babuli instead of abuse her. Babuli encouraged with the activities of ARC.

Now, Babuli make calls ARC members to attend sessions at ARC regularly. She also attends the sessions and actively participates in any discussion. She can write her and her parents name. Education Facilitator said, "Babuli follows my advice and regularly participate in ARC." Her mother Anjuara said, "Her cleanliness was a great problem for me. Now she is able to clean herself and also she advises me about cleanliness. Babuli developed for ARC."

Case Study-03

Name : Sajeda Begum
Age : 23 years
Husband's Name : Masud Rana
Village : Khir Para, Bamunia
Upazilla : Shajahanpur
District : Bogra

Sajeda Begum, a simple house wife of a poor family of Bamunia village under Shajhanpur Upazilla of Bogra District. Father's poverty took Sajeda apart from school and so, she has no reading and writing experience. Sajeda got married with Masud Rana of Bamunia village at the age of 20. Like others women she started stereotype household life. She thought women's life is protected by the vicious cycle of unproductive activities. She passed four years of married life in the same way and gave birth of a daughter. Now her daughter is 3 years old. Her husband is a sharecropper. He cultivates other's land and maintained a poor life.

For a better life, Sajeda was seeking some income opportunities. She discussed with her relatives and well wishers but nobody gave her clear road map. In this situation she was informed that Grameen Alo will recruit 30 new members for phase-II of- Loko –Kendra at her village. She felt interest and became a member of Loko-Kendra.

She started to attend at Loko-Kendra regularly and actively participated in the discussion sessions of Loko –Kendro. With in a few days she learned about various women's issues like- Reproductive health, Child Care, Women's Rights, etc. She plasticised her learning in her real life.

Following the learning from Loko-Kendra, She started to take care of her daughter and she observed that her daughter was free from seasonal diseases. She realised the need of hygienic environment at her family and installed a water-seal-latrine in her house.

Also Sajeda received training on homestead gardening and Women Leadership. She learned a lot about homestead gardening and discussed with her husband how to implement her training knowledge and skills in real life. Finally they made common understanding that they will start a homestead garden near her house. She started to cultivate various nutritious vegetable and took care of it. With in a short time she started to get better result. She produced more vegetable. She consumed a little part of it and rest of all sold in the nearest market.

Moreover she started to help her husband in the field and as a result their production cost reduced. To increase family income, Sajeda started to collect quality seeds from various resources and preserved it carefully for the next season. Selling those seeds to her neighbours, she earns extra money for her family. Sajeda said that the project personnel and Block Supervisor of agriculture department helped her to preserve seed and produced more vegetable. Her husband encouraged for her innovative activities.

She was awarded Tk. 3000/- for IGA support from the project. Adding some money from her deposit she purchased a cow from Sherpur Hat. During the interview she was asked to describe her experience during the cow purchase from Hat. She said, "We are unreasonably afraid of going Hat/Bazar. The males do not disturb women and we are able to purchase/sell any thing from/in our nearest market." She hoped that the cow will give minimum Tk. 4000 profit with in 6 months.

Now Shajeda said, "Education is most important to the change of life. So, I will try to educate my daughter. I never want that my daughter will lead a life like me." As a result of hard working they deposit some money and exploring to purchase few land for vegetable cultivation. She has future plan to start vegetable cultivation on 100 decimal of land. In side of vegetable cultivation she will be establish a small goat's farm. Her suggestions for poor women - "achieve life skills education and change your life". We asked her during interview which type of supports is need for you she said." There is no alternation of life skills education".

Case Study-04

Name : Ms. Ashafun Begum
Age : 24 years
Father name : Hazrat Ali
Village : Bamunia (Khiyarpara),
Upazala : Shahajanpur, Bogra
Membership : Loko Kendra, Phase-II

Mst. Ashafun Begum is the member of 2nd cycle of Lokokendra. He was born in a poor family. Due to poverty, her father arranged marriage of Asrafal with a poor day labour in the early age. As Social norm, she started household activities like other women. She thought that the life of women is protected by four wells. In this situation, she gave born 2 sons. Her day labour husbands work in other house and maintained a poor life. She could not arrange education for her sons for the lacking of money. Ashafal observed her family life closely and try to find out thy way of increasing income but he could not take decision what she will do. In this situation, she informed that Grameen Alo will be established a Loko-Kendra in her village by the financial support of SAP. She knew about the activities of Loko -Kendra and got admission like other member. Total 60 members were admitted in this Loko-Kendra, She regularly attend the sessions and participated any discussion. Gradually her knowledge has been increased. In side of this she received training on homestead gardening. After completion of training, she started vegetable cultivation on her homestead. She helps her husband to cultivate vegetables inside of household activities. She also participated various cultural program i.e. rally, day observance etc. Her husband encouraged her to participate the project's activities.

By the supports of project, she produced more vegetable by use a few land and get more profit. She said," training taught me the techniques of more vegetable to use few land". She consumed a little part of it and sold some of vegetable in the near market to maintain the expenditure of her family. She received goats from project that she brought from the market. She expressed her feeling to purchase the goat- it was excellent experience for me to go to the market to purchase the goat. I never feel such experience in my previous life. She takes care of her goats inside of vegetable cultivation and other daily activities. The working volumes of Ashfun Begum has been increasing she has no time to spend idle life. Moreover her mobility has been increased- she goes to market, hospital, loko-Kandra, cultural program and many other places. She said now I am the ownership of some assets. My dignity has been increased in my family. Now everybody of my family honour my concerned. I took part any decision making process of my family. I am well aware how to maintain a health life, which I learned from the Loko- Kendra. All time I try to maintain a net and clean life. I also encouraged my neighbours to maintain a healthy life. She clearly expressed that if we maintained personal hygienic and cleanliness then possibility of disease will be reduced. In this connection she installed water seal-later in her house, which is using all of her family members. Actually, lot of positive changes have been found in the life of Ashafun Begum for project intervention. We asked her which sorts of supports are needed for you, she said," I want more education".

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