

Annex C: Case Study of Promising Practice / Innovative Working Approach

Women entrepreneurship is growing through Shefali

Shefali Urao is an Adibashi woman who lives in the village named Joanpur under Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon district. She and her husband Roshik Urao were involved in day laboring of Agriculture. They have one son and one daughter. Her daughter reads in class eight and the son is younger. It was very difficult for them to maintain their family with the very minimum income of day laboring. They do not have work around the year. They had no another source of income as they had no land of their own for cultivating and very poor space of home land. Shefali was involved in the producer group which was facilitated by the DREAM project of ARCO. So that she could learn about doormat, its production, income and expenditure by attending the producer group's meeting regularly. One day she decided to visit the doormat production activities where the doormat production is well established and other members of the groups are doing very well for doormat production. After visiting the doormat production , she became motivated and she took decision to receive training on doormat.

Thereafter, she received two months long training on doormat production through the support of ARCO. So that her skill has increased and now she has been making five doormats on average per day besides her daily home work. For that reason, her income has been increasing than



previous. Now, she has been earning four thousand and five hundred taka monthly on average. She became able to bring peace in her family by earning more money and the needs of her children and familial expenses are being covered by her income. Her family members are happy now. Moreover, her dignity has been increasing in her family and the community as well. Some other women of the village became engaged with the doormat production inspired by her. Shefali is dreaming for becoming a big merchant of doormat production in future which will create the source of income of many women of the community through this initiative.

Accessing rights increases Dignity

The most extremed poor Adibashi village named 'Belpara' is situated in the Mohadevpur sadar union of Mohadevpur upazila under Naogaon district. There are thirty five households who have been struggling to live with their problems which they are not capable to solve. They did not become able to solve their problems of their necessary needs though they had desired. They did not know where the services are available and how to achieve these facilities, they did not know how to raise their voices to the public representatives by reducing their inferiority. Association for Rural Cooperation (ARCO) started to work in the Mohadevpur sadar union of Mohadevpur upazila under Naogaon district since the year 2017 with the financial support of HEEKS/EPER through DREAM project and took initiative to solve their problems forming Village Development Committee (VDC) at Belpara like other working areas. The VDC of Belpara made their working plan on priority basis identifying their problems. Pure drinking water took the top priority there.



The Belpara VDC members conducted meeting with Barandra Multipurpose Development Committee (BMDA) through the support of DREAM project, ARCO but the Adibashi inhabitants of Belpara did not get solution of their water related problems as the water supply project was ended. Then they communicated with local leaders, Union Parishad and applied to the Up standing committee for raising their voices and inclusion. In 2018, Rajmuni Urao was included in 'Sanitation, water supply and garbage exhausted related standing committee' from Belpara VDC. One day Rajmuni Urao shared her problems regarding pure drinking water of Adibashi people in the opinion sharing meeting at union parishad in 2019 and respective chairman promised to look after the issue. Later on, the water supply project was implemented without any contribution through regular communication with Chairman and members. A submersible pump, a thousand liter water tank and three fosets were installed through

the initiative. So that water related problems were reduced. Now there are no problem of safe drinking water at village Belpara. Moreover, the project has been directed by Rajmuni Urao. Implementing the safe water supply project, a number of fifteen households are being benefitted at Belpara Adibashipara. Now they have become free from water borne diseases through using the safe water . Using safe water and the news of tranquility getting facilities around their community increased their mental strength, Seeing the success of Rajmoni Urao, now most of them are telling about their rights and taking initiatives to solve their problems. They are dreaming for those days where there will be no problems in their community and they will have nice and happy future.

