

## Access to health Services

ARCO has been working for the development and socialization of Dalit and Adibashi people in collaboration with the HEKS-EPER since 2009. In the context of Bangladesh Dalit and Adibashi is marginalized and deprived community. They have a limited access in health, education, job, land, social activities and place. Even they are not aware about their rights. For example, Rishipara is such a rural dalit community under the Mohadevpur upazila in Charagpur union. There are 311 people live fewer than 93 households. Mainly they are involved in handicraft (bamboo product) profession. Being their illiteracy, untouchable and extreme poverty they are known the marginalized community in the context of Bangladesh. They are not aware of the govt and non govt health service due to their illiteracy and traditional mind set up. They always go to village doctor and quack for their health treatment. On the other hand if they go in the govt health department, they do not get proper treatment from the govt health service provider. Even sometimes the govt health service provider mis behave with them. In some cases the doctor gives priority to the mainstream patients instead of them. They do not touch them during treatment and not provide medicine of govt allocation. Though they have plan that they will visit the each community in a month, actually they do not go to visit the Rishipara community at all. On the other hand they do not go to the private doctor for being their poverty. For above situation they have faced health hazard like as insect of common disease, child and mother mortality, delivery period complexity etc. To overcome this situation ARCO has discussed with them and identified their problems and needs. Then ARCO has communicated union level to upazila level health department and arranged strong advocacy together with the PooC. Through our communication, linkage and strong advocacy again and again to the respective department, Upazila health officer have directed their union level staff to provide all the govt facilities, visited regularly and arranged medical camp to Rishipara community. Now every month Union family planning department arrange medical camp and provide medicine at free of cost. Besides govt department, Shurjer Hashi clinic have provided health treatment among the Rishipara dalit community. They provide medicine at 12% discount and they have provided 50% discount for

various pathological tests such as blood group, Hemoglobin, Diabetic, pregnancy, urine sugar, HBSAG etc. Especially pregnant mothers will be getting various facilities in delivery period. As a result, they are aware about their health, being interested in getting govt services, and developing their relationship with govt and non govt health service providers. Besides the Rishipara community, nearest Adibashi community also get health service from the govt and non govt health department. They are raising their voices gradually and claiming their rights. They will have a dream that besides health service, they also want to get other govt. facilities without any discrimination.



