

Rising Up of Dulo Pahani Tackling Poverty

We are enabled to meet my children daily needs recovering our extreme poverty. We all are consuming full meals in a day. Our children go to school regularly. We both have been doing business of bull fattening and chicken rearing. We increased income and made regular savings in Bank. All honor and respect me everywhere.

All of the words were uttered and expressed softly by Dulo Pahani, wife of Bimol Pahan, Sharuppur village of cheragpur Union, Mahadevpur.

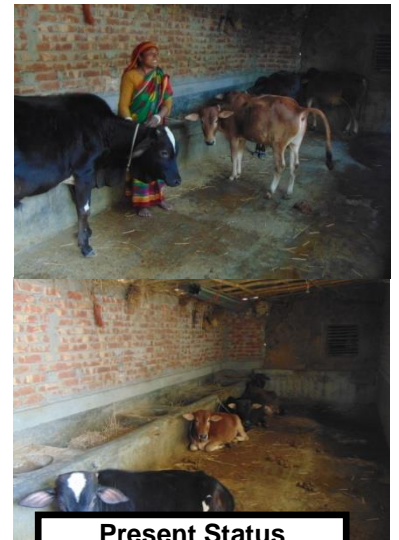
The family of Dulo Pahani lived with an extreme poverty. In a time, they lived in a fragile mud bond house, where their sufferings were multiple. They have no other land without homestead land. Their livelihood was day labour only and both of them worked hard and soul in other's land to retain whole family consisted of 5 members. It was so difficult to maintain their families meeting minimum standards as their monthly income was up to about BDT. 4000. Due to such poverty situation, they were not able to go outside for any recreation of their children.

The situation is few far long. It is the year of 2014, only 4 years ago. On Jan, 2014 ARCO mobilized the community with a missionary statement of their development in a rights based approach. It was a mission of development livelihoods and economic status through value chain management of bull-fattening and native chicken rearing with the aim of inclusive market system development. It promoted livelihoods of bull-fattening and native chicken rearing through the formation of producer group first and then undertook many value addition initiatives for profit making. RSSC was established in the community to facilitate the quality input supply for the producers in a collective way. The initiative minimized their production cost as well as profit making.

Dulo Pahani became a member of producer groups and took part in regular meeting and learning sessions. She learnt of bull fattening more intensive. Then she started up the business of bull fattening receiving DBT. 20,000 as loan from a NGO. A Paravet helped him to buy a bull fro



Previous Status



Present Status

m bull traders, which increased their income. A business mind setup was grown in them. Then they she started up chicken rearing then and got more income. With the capital her husband started up a grocery shop in their community. Then they leased land for agriculture works. They also integrated Vermic compost production for agriculture and homestead gardening.

They started saving in Rajshahi Kirishi Unnayn Bank. She got micro finance two times. Last time Dulo Pahan took loan of BDT. 90,000. They build a brick bond shed of 10 cattle rearing. He bought two bull,

which are being fattened now. The multiple income options have increased their income up to BDT. 8000 and more monthly.

In the response of question - what was his big challenge in their life, she said that we lived in a community and were not a communication with others beyond my community. We did not know the right way of changing livelihoods. She also said, we have got much information from ARCO, ULO, Pravet, traders, etc. to expand my business. Thereby, we have done better than others. Now my neighbors started the business of bull fattening and chicken rearing taking advice from me.

We are very happy and changed our life by the ways, you showed. Both we are managing our business sharing our works each other so that our children get the opportunities to be a educated. ---Bimol Pahan, Husband of Dulo Pahan.

CHANGE MAKER OF THE COMMUNITY

ARCO is working with Dalit/Adibashi community for their inclusion through improving their dignity and livelihood status. Dalit and Adibashi communities are facing various problems. Such as lacks of awareness, land, drug, graveyard, illiteracy, child marriage, dowry, and poverty are the major problems of their community. But most of the time, they do not know how to overcome those problems. The youth and adolescent group can play a vital role to overcome those problems. ARCO thinks that Adolescent boys and girls would be a change maker for their own community. So, ARCO have arranged various awareness meetings and identified their strength, opportunity, weakness and desire. Then ARCO have prepared a plan jointly with the youth and adolescent team. According to the analysis ARCO has arranged six step and cultural skill development training for the capacity development of the youth and adolescent group. As a result, Adolescents group become motivated and enthusiastic to do something for their community. After getting training, adolescent group have decided to form cultural groups for reducing their community problems through street drama, folk song, campaign, household visit etc. In that purpose, a



So as per their plan they have arranged youth conference and presented their problems by organizing different stalls (Issue based problem) and also their own culture through cultural events where all level of govt officials, administration, media person and social activist have participated. As a result, govt officials and other stakeholders have sensitized about their problems and committed to reduce their problems. In some cases, they have instantly taken some steps to reduce the problems such as drug prevention, getting education allowance, prevention of early marriage, sanitation and safety net facilities. Besides this they have provided some materials for girl's football team (jersey, football etc). Consequently, their self-esteem has been rising and realizing that they are the important resource for their community. Now youth and adolescent groups are working on hygiene sanitation, early marriage, drug, education and cleanliness. They have aware about their rights and entitlements. They have started to go to different departments and tried to bring their facilities. They have a good communication with the govt department. At present they participated in various govt level programs such as victory day celebration by the DC office and Unnoyan Mela cultural nights arranged by Upazila administration and so on. Dalit and Adibashi parents have inspired their child to change the community. Now they are going to ahead for changing their community. We dream of the day when they will change the society where there is no discrimination.
