

Turning of Shanto's life Fight for bright future

Sharmin Akter Shanto is now self reliant. She is earning money by tailoring and continuing her education. She is not only bearing cost for her education purposes but also contributing to her family for standard living.

Shanto is an inhabitant of South Khoribari village of Tepakhoribari union under Dimla Upazila which is located at the northern part of Bangladesh and border belt area. This village is situated on river bank area. She is daughter of Mr. Korimuddin & Rozina Begum. She lives in very poor family .Her parents are day laborer and live from hand to mouth. In this situation, Shanto and her younger sister have been continuing their education by facing different constraint. Though Shanto is a meritorious student but poverty has become a threat for continuing her education. Shanto's parents have stopped her education and thinking to give early (child) marriage.

At this situation, USS introduced Girl Power Project within Tepakhoribari Union in the village for forming Girls & Young Women Forum. Eventually Shanto was selected as president of that forum.

Through this forum she received life skill training, gender training and self employment training. In the meantime she received tailoring training through Girl Power Project where she did best. As a good achiever, USS awarded her a sewing machine which stands as the turning point of shanto's life.

Shanto's skills on tailoring explored within a very short time and now many customers come to her with various orders.

Her income raised through this.

As a result her parents stopped thinking for shanto's marriage. Now she is continuing her education with full attention. She is bearing her own and her younger sister's education cost and family cost from her earning money.



Shanto working after finishing school time

She stated that, "I am very grateful to USS & Girl Power Project which is implementing such types of intervention. If these opportunities had not come here I couldn't continue my education and my situation would be the same as of other girls who born in poor family"

Now Habiba is safe from Child Marriage

Habiaba Akter is now safe from child marriage and continuing her education. Union Child Forum of Golna has been succeeded in protecting habiba from child marriage.

Habiba Akter, Daughter of Shafiqul Alam and Morzina Begum who live in Kharija Golna village of Golna union, under Jaldhaka sub district of Nilphamari district. Her Father is a poor farmer. She has 3 brothers. Though Habiba is a meritorious student, her father wanted to give early marriage in hope of fewer dowries, social insecurity and also for lack of consciousness. Her father decided to give marry to her daughter when habiba was in class six. But Habiba refused her father's proposal. On the other side the village match maker motivated her father for giving marriage. Habiba's father and match maker together arranged marriage ceremony confidentially on 16 august'13. At that moment habiba informed Golna Union Child Forum (UCF) about that matter. Then UCF communicated with respective CBOs and consulted with Habiba's parents for not giving child marriage. Instantly habiba's parents decided to stop their daughter's marriage.



Habiba and class mates in daily assembly

One month later her parents re-arranged their daughter's marriage with fake birth registration card in presence of UP chairman. Again UCF challenged the marriage. They also challenged that the birth registration card is fake or incorrect. UCF also showed the photocopy of original birth registration to respective chairman which they preserved at the beginning of forming child forum. As a result UP chairman was bounded to stop the marriage and expressed sorry for misusing /miss-correcting birth registration card. That's how habiba is now continuing her education.

She stated “ *I am very pleased to continue my education. I am giving my thanks to Union Child Forum, promising role of which has saved me from child marriage and also my future loss.* ”

We think, Golna Child Forum created a great example by preserving copy of birth registration card of their respective members which can protect miss-correction of birth registration and reduce child marriage.

Prepared by:
Mostafa Kamal
PC-USS