

'Beggars have no choice' this is the proverb we all know but few beggars can make the difference, Nuri Khatun is one of them. Earlier she was known to the community as Nuri Pagli (mad); the society was given her that title. She was basically a tragic heroin. All kinds of shocked and miseries gripped her life. She was basically a bit disable person. She was married off at 13. Her husband used to torture her very often. The man got 2nd marriage. Due to give birth of a girl child she was forced to leave her husband's home. Nuri started to live with her parents. The last shelter was also gone when her parents also died. In such circumstance Nuri started begging and has been doing it for the last 40 years. She used to roam and beg with shabby tattered cloth and broken faces. No one gave a second look and did not care whether she lives or dies. Nuri and her daughter were in total hapless and hopeless.



NDP-ENRICH program funded by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) enlisted Nuri under its 'beggars rehabilitation activity' in 2013. She also took it as a last opportunity of her life. The project sanctioned Tk. 100,000 in her name. She planned to make house, purchase cow and bull with the money. Accordingly she purchased Holstein Friesian Cow with a calf with BDT 59,000 and a Crossbred bull costs BDT 17,000. Rest of the money she used to make a house. Now Nuri does not beg any more. Her busy days pass by collecting grasses, feeding the animals and taking care of them. She is earning Tk. 6,500 per month from the milk selling, after consumption. She sold the bull and took lease 25 decimal agricultural land. She also opened a small unit of Nakshi Kantha (hand stitching bed sheet) making business. She also employed few women to the work. Days have changed so remarkably to Nuri that from a '**mere beggar she has become a decent lady**'.