

Alo Khatun has no shortage of pure and safe water

"If our village had a double platform tubewell before the floods, there would be no shortage of pure drinking water, and so many people would not die of diarrhea, dysentery and water born



Alo Khatun is taking water from a double platform tubewell

disease" said Alo Khatun of Char Gudibari village in Sirajganj. Alo Khatun's husband Sattar Bepari is a farmer. He has 6 family members. His monthly income is 4000 Tk.

Sirajganj district is an administrative area of Rajshahi Division in the northwestern part of Bangladesh. The weaving industry has made this district known in the

courtyard of the world, Kancharibari of Rabindranath Tagore in Shahzadpur Upazila is a historical site.

It is well known for its Baghabari MilkVita factory. However, as always, Sirajganj is a very disaster-prone area. The prevalence of floods and winters is extremely high here every year.

Moreover Shahzadpur Upazila area is a very densely populated area. The population density per square kilometer here is 1481(Aprox). Due to poor population density and low literacy rate, diseases and epidemics persist here. The standard of living here is as low as it is in the wild and in winter, people live poor lives.

Every time this year, the floods also caused severe damage to Kaiampur, Garadaha, Rupabati, Porjona, Kaizuri and Narina unions in Shahzadpur. The floods also caused severe damage to Kaiampur, Garadaha, Rupabati, Porjona, Kaizuri and Narina unions in Shahzadpur. The National Development Programme (NDP) workrd of emergency WASH in the Kaijuri Union, it has been play a major role in improving the quality of livelihood for people with disabilities, teenagers and young people in the area, which is founding by UNICEF.

As a continuation of this project A double platform tubewell has been installed at Alo Khatun's house. About 17 families use the double platform tubewell, These families have more than 90 members.

Here is an information about the lack of clean water and the unhealthy environment, all the latrines in the village of Kaijuri were open this tubewell for all necessary activities starting from eating and bathing.

It may be mentioned here that according to the guideline of Sphere, the minimum distance for collecting pure drinking water is 500 and hanging and there was no well-matured tubewell in this village before. The 2/3 of the well-matured tubewells that were available were not usable at all. Each member of these families uses meters but the distance of tubewells from the houses of these 17 families is 80-100 meters.



Double platform tubewell installed in Alo Khatun's house

Another thing to keep in mind here is that due to the large space of the tubewell platform, bathing as well as washing facilities are available. Earlier we had to go to the river or pond to wash clothes and now everyone can clean clothes here.

Now let's see what happens to us in the dry season.

Chaitra-Baishakh is our dry season. The sun is very hot this season. It's not rain at this time or even if it is much less in quantity.

At this time, the water level goes down to the very bottom, the river channel dries up, and on the other hand, the crop fields burst. Then there is no pure drinking water available for use. Even in this dry season there is no water in the well. It is unthinkable that the people here would bother for a little water.

But this time in this dry season our previous situation has changed. The people around us didn't have to suffer at least for water. This time we got pure water during the whole dry season. With the help of this tubewell water, the people of the area have been able to collect water for the cattle to meet their daily needs. This tubewell is a great gift for us. The importance of these tubewells in improving our quality of life is immense.

Naturally, Bangladesh is a country of natural disasters. Among them, Shahjadpur Upazila is a disaster prone area. Every year there are floods and droughts. And the last flood was more than normal and our whole village was submerged. In fact, every flood causes a lot of damage to us.

As the Kaijuri Union is on the banks of the river Jamuna, the turbulence of the river Jamuna is more. During the flood, our transportation system was completely destroyed and our whole life came to a standstill.

And the Milkvita Company is located in this area, most of the people have cattle and poultry. Every time there is a flood, there is a lot of damage to people as well as livestock, especially during floods, some people have to take shelter on the dam with cattle.



Alo Khatun is taking water from the double platform tubewell for domestic work

This is when the real scenario of flood time is also impossible to expect pure water there. For pure drinking water, we have to wait for the help of various governments, local governments and NGOs.

We used to wait for the government or NGO's to come up

with "water purification tablets". And to be honest, there are never enough "water purification tablets" available during floods.

And because of poor health, most people are forced to drink contaminated water. The result of drinking this water is that children and the elderly get infected with water borne diseases. Which is increasing child mortality.

Sometimes all these deadly floods are increasing gender base violence. Which is a big obstacle in the social development of the earth.

The WASH project implemented by the NDP in collaboration with UNICEF in Kaijuri Union is expected to ensure that there is no shortage of pure water at least this time. Because this double platform tubewell is one of the boring ones but the nozzles are two, so during the flood the head of the tubewell will be opened and placed on a high platform. And we've been given the tools it takes to set up on a high platform.

As a result of being located on a high platform, not only us but also those around us will no



Double Platform Tubewell of Alo Khatun

longer lack pure drinking water. I sincerely thank UNICEF and NDP for implementing this project and providing us with a better and healthier quality of life. As well as saying a little, we need to implement much more such projects in the union. Initiatives should be taken to ensure health protection in every home in every village. We have seen that in our union, in addition to double platform tubewells, emergency latrines, bathing cubical elder and disabled friendly latrines and

tubewells are being repaired. Therefore, we request you to repair these emergency latrines, bathrooms and tubewells in every house in our village.

This double platform tubewell is playing a huge role in improving our quality of life, we can say that we are enjoying the benefits.