

LIVES INTERWOVEN WITH NDP

Stories from the Ground



**NATIONAL
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“This programme gave me strength when I was broken. Now, I dream of becoming self-reliant and raising my son to be a kind, responsible human being.”

Pali Akter,

Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP)

Nourishing a New Life, Growing a New Future

Pali Akter, a resident of Adikhali village in Santoshpur Union, Chitalmari Upazila, lives with her parents and her 9-month-old son, Rajjo. A final-year honours student, Pali's journey has been marked by hardship and resilience.

In 2023, to ease the financial burden of her education, her father arranged her marriage

to Raju, a man from Khiligati village. However, soon after marriage, Pali discovered her husband was involved in drugs. Her days became filled with abuse and humiliation at the hands of her husband and mother-in-law. Two months into her pregnancy, Raju was arrested. Unable to endure the mistreatment, Pali returned to her parental home.

In February 2024, with help from the Women Development Worker of Santoshpur Union, Pali applied for the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) – a government initiative supported by the UN World Food Programme. After verification, she was selected as a final beneficiary.

Since March 2024, Pali has actively participated in SBCC (Social and Behaviour Change Communication) sessions in her village. She uses her learnings on nutrition, hygiene, gender equality, and self-reliance in daily life and shares them with her family. In July 2024, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy weighing 3.7 kg at Chitalmari Upazila Hospital.

Pali now prepares nutritious complementary food for her child and helps other pregnant women. She also grows vegetables in her home garden and regularly shares health tips with neighbours. Her mother, once unaware of such topics, now eagerly listens to everything, Pali learns in training.



Pali believes the MCBP truly changed her life during a time of deep darkness. It not only gave her knowledge but also the strength and courage to keep moving forward, filling her heart with new hope. With a brighter vision for the future, she now dreams of becoming self-reliant and ensuring her son grows up to be a kind, responsible, and good human being.



“That first goat was not just an animal—it was the key that unlocked my family’s future.”

Phulera Begum,
Alokitogram Kormosuchi

Fulera Begum’s Journey to Financial Freedom

In the quiet lanes of Bagbari village, Kamarkhand upazila, Sirajganj, lived Fulera Begum and her husband, Md. Rafiqul Islam Khan. Rafiqul, an auto van driver, was the family’s sole breadwinner for their six-member household—three sons, a young daughter, and themselves. With the eldest son in honors, the middle one fresh from SSC, and the young-

est in class five, educational costs were mounting. Poverty kept the family’s social standing low, and survival was a daily struggle.

One afternoon, during a courtyard meeting of the NDP Enlightened Village Program, Fulera heard about small grants for income-generating activities. With determination

in her voice, she told the committee, “If I can earn from home, my husband won’t have to bear the weight alone, and my children’s education will never stop.” Her sincerity moved the members, and in December 2022, Fulera received a breeding goat.

For eight months, she nurtured the goat with patience. Soon, it gave birth to three healthy kids. She sold two kids and the original goat for 20,000 taka, investing the earnings into a bull and a cow worth 50,000 taka. Over time, her livestock grew—today, she owns one cow and two goats. The bull alone is now worth approximately 100,000 taka, while the goats could fetch another 20,000 taka.

Her plan is clear: sell the bull at a good price, reinvest in another cow, and slowly build a small herd. The family now enjoys better meals, fewer financial worries, and the dignity that comes from stability. Education for all her children is no longer a dream deferred—it’s a reality in progress.

Fulera’s journey from one goat to multiple livestock is more



than a financial turnaround—it’s a testament to her resilience and the power of a single opportunity.

Now, Fulera dreams of becoming a successful entrepreneur, steadily growing her ventures while ensuring her children not only complete their education but also build secure futures of their own. She longs to live a life of dignity and independence—standing as proof that even in the smallest beginnings lie the enduring seeds of transformation and lasting hope.



"I used to fight for survival. Now I'm building something bigger—for my family, for my community."

Kamrunnahar Khatun,

*BD Beef & Goat Value Chain Signature
Program*

Fifty Liters of Change: How One Woman Redefined Success

Kamrunnahar Khatun wasn't born into opportunity—but she created one. Years ago, she ran a small roadside shop in Pratap village of Ullapara upazila, struggling to meet her family's basic needs. Life was stable but stagnant—until the Heifer project of NDP arrived in her community in 2021 and lit a spark she never knew she carried.

Curious about the training and unity among the women's groups nearby, Kamrunnahar approached a neighboring group leader. Instead of joining, she was encouraged to form her own team—and she did. With 25 women, she established the Putimach Nari Unnayan Dal under Bangala Madhumoti Mahila Samabay Samity and was soon elected

its president.

Through the Heifer-supported initiative, she received training in livestock care, milk management, team leadership, and sustainable agriculture. She was provided a biogas plant, fodder machine, improved tools, and even startup capital to raise cows and goats. Guided by the values of the project, she took a



bold step—starting her own cattle farm with five cows.

Today, her farm houses 21 bulls and cows. Every day, around 50 liters of milk are collected and sold at local markets and cooperative cooling centers. Her earnings now support not just her family, but also her community. She distributes Shakti Yogurt to undernourish-



ed school children and shares milk, vegetables, and poultry with neighbors, relatives, and fellow group members.

Her confidence has soared, and her presence in family and social decision-making has grown. Kamrunnahar has become a symbol of possibility in her village—where once she was known for her small shop, she is now respected as a successful livestock entrepreneur.

Kamrunnahar's vision doesn't stop here. She plans to expand her farm to 50 cows, enhance milk-based product marketing, and inspire more rural women to break free from social barriers. Where many saw limits, Kamrunnahar saw land, life, and livestock—and turned them into lasting impact.



"I lost everything once. But now I've found myself again—inside a classroom."

Sanjida Khatun,

*Community based Resilience Women's
Empowerment and Action Project(CREA)*

Sanjida Reclaims Her Voice and Rights

At just 15, Sanjida's life had already been dictated by deep-rooted customs. Born into a poor, uneducated family in Tarabaria village of Belkuchi upazila, Sirajganj, she was forced into marriage, ending her education and silencing her dreams. Within just three months, that marriage turned abusive. Her husband demanded dowry, increased her household burdens, and

deprived her of food. When the abuse became unbearable, Sanjida returned to her parents' home, hoping for safety.

But relief was short-lived. Her husband never came to inquire. Eventually, she was divorced—left to bear the shame alone. The whispers of neighbors, the accusing stares, and the weight of judgment pushed Sanjida into isolation.

She withdrew from everyone, losing her voice, her confidence, and nearly her mental balance.

Then came a turning point.

During a routine visit, FF Mst. Razia Sultana of the Community based Resilience Women's Empowerment and Action Project (CREA)—implemented by NDP with support from the Embassy of Sweden and Foundation for People—learned about her condition from the Tarabaria Women's Group.



Deeply moved, Razia and the women's group members began visiting Sanjida, listening without judgment, offering counseling, and slowly igniting a spark within her.

At first, Sanjida resisted. Her



dreams had long turned to ashes. But the team didn't give up. And one day, Sanjida said, yes.

She wanted to study again. To reclaim her voice. With her consent, the group approached Gachchapari Alhaj Majirul Haque High School, where—after much encouragement—Sanjida was admitted to grade nine. The project provided Tk. 4,500 to cover her registration, giving her the lift she needed to rise.

Now, Sanjida attends school regularly. Her face shines with new hope. She dreams of becoming self-reliant and standing beside other girls like her.

Sanjida's story isn't just about rescue—it's about reclaiming the right to dream.



"This tea stall is not just my business—it is my dignity."

Md. Chaked Mia,
Samriddhi, Bera

From Struggle to Steam: How Chaked Mia's Tea Stall Became the Heart of His Village

Life had tested Md. Chaked Mia from the start. Orphaned at a young age, he grew up in his maternal uncle's home, navigating hardship after hardship. For decades, he survived as a daily wage laborer, but by the time he turned 71, age had drained his physical strength. His income fell short, and running the household became a daily struggle.

Hope arrived in 2018, when the Samriddhi began its work in Chakla Union, Bera Upazila of Pabna District. The program aimed to uplift elderly citizens through income-generating activities, health services, allowances, and cultural engagement. In 2022, Chaked was selected as a beneficiary of the program's Golden Initiative (Tea Stall) in Kanu Bazar, Kushiara village.

In March 2022, he received a cheque for BDT 15,000 from NDP and added BDT 9,500 of his own savings—creating a startup fund of BDT 24,500. With this, he launched the Praveen Sonali Udyog (Golden Tea Stall). The stall offered more than just tea; it became a local corner shop selling paan, cigarettes, chocolates, biscuits, chips, soap, shampoo, stationery, milk cartons, pulses, cooking oil, drinks, and more.



The tea stall quickly grew into a social hub. Local elders would gather, sip tea infused with Chaked's signature blend of spices, lemon, ginger, and fresh leaves, and chat as if the place were their own living room.



Daily sales averaged BDT 800–1,000, bringing in around BDT 10,000 per month. From these earnings, Chaked covered family expenses, repaired his house, and even purchased a young cow worth BDT 90,000—boosting his household's income and social standing.

Guided by NDP officials, Chaked built good relationships with his customers, earning their loyalty and praise. Villagers admire the NDP and PKSF initiative that turned a struggling elder into a respected entrepreneur.

Now, he dreams of expanding into a larger shop stocked with more goods, confident that the steam rising from his tea is also the steam powering his future.



“Now I can see, work, and serve my husband. NDP has given me the light not just in my eyes, but in my life.”

Kajoli Begum,
Samriddhi, Gurudashpur

Regaining Sight, Reclaiming Dignity: Kajoli Begum's Journey Back to Life

At nearly 70 years old, Kajoli Begum of Shikarpur village in Gurudaspur, Natore, had lived a life defined by hardship and quiet resilience. Married to a van driver, Md. Kobad Molla, Kajoli spent decades contributing to her family's livelihood through net weaving while her husband pedaled passengers for survival. With three sons and one daughter, they lived in a modest home

built on just 10 decimals of ancestral land.

But time was not kind. Her husband, weakened by age and illness, had to give up his van. Kajoli, too, slowly lost her eyesight due to cataracts. The income from net weaving—her lifeline—came to a halt. With no savings and sons struggling as daily agricultural laborers, hunger and helplessness crept

into their household. Medical care was a distant dream.

Then, one day, a glimmer of hope appeared.

During a routine visit under the Samriddhi Program, health inspector Salma Khatun noticed Kajoli's struggle. Listening to her story, Salma arranged for an eye screening at a satellite camp. The diagnosis was clear: cataracts in both eyes. Fortunately, Kajoli qualified for free cataract surgery through the NDP's eye care initiative in 2020. The operation changed everything. After the successful surgery, Kajoli's eyesight returned, and with it, her confidence. She resumed weaving nets, managing household chores,



and even walking on her own again. Earning 1,500–2,000 taka per month, she now supports her ailing husband and even helps her children when needed.

Dignity, independence, and the will to rebuild even in the twilight of life. She now dreams of staying healthy and self-reliant, weaving both nets and hope for her family's future.





"That day at NDP, I felt like my voice finally mattered. Change is possible—when the community stands with you."

Shapla,

Gender and Rights Program, NDP

Bruises to Breakthrough: How Shapla's Family Found Peace Again

In the quiet village of Bagbari Paschim Para, 19-year-old Shapla's life took a turn that felt almost scripted by fate. The beloved younger daughter of van driver Md. Buddu Mondal, she was known in her community for her bright smile, gentle manners, and quiet determination to overcome hardship. Yet poverty, relentless and unforgiving, stood as a wall against her dreams. Despite

her eagerness to study, her education was cut short after class seven. At just 16, her family arranged her marriage to Md. Sabbir Sheikh of Mukimpur village, hoping it would bring stability and a better future.

The early months of her marriage seemed filled with promise. Shapla tried to adapt to her new household, nurturing hopes of building a

happy family. But slowly, shadows crept in. Sabbir's hidden addictions—to drugs and gambling—emerged, consuming both the household income and the trust between them. Nights that should have been filled with rest became battlegrounds of fear and arguments. When Shapla dared to raise her voice about empty kitchens and unpaid markets, her words were met not with understanding but with blows.

For four years, Shapla lived under constant abuse. Relatives often advised, "Have a child, things will improve." Hoping for change, she and Sabbir welcomed a son, but instead of healing, the violence only deepened, leaving her torn between caring for her child and despair for her own future. Then one night, an argument turned brutal; Shapla's head bled from the blows, her desperate cries breaking the silence of the village. Her parents could no longer stand aside. They brought her home, and on January 4, 2025, her mother reported the case to the National Development Programme (NDP).



Program pursued mediation. On January 16, at NDP's head office, both families and community members gathered. For the first time, Sabbir faced the harm he caused and, under collective pressure, promised to give up gambling, drugs, and violence, committing to support his family with dignity.

Months later, Shapla's home reflects change—the bruises are gone, replaced by her child's laughter and peaceful family meals. With NDP's continued follow-up, she is slowly regaining confidence as Sabbir upholds his promises.

Her story, though scarred, now carries a message of resilience: even in the darkest storms, there's a path to light when help arrives at the right time.



"Now I don't have to struggle every month like before. Because of NDP's support, I can live with dignity,"

Ms Ratna Khatun,

Livestock Risk Mitigation Programme, NDP

Feathered Fortunes: Ratna's Rise with Peking Ducks

In the quiet village of Machhuakandi, Bahuli Union of Sirajganj, life for Ms Ratna Khatun once felt like a constant balancing act between poverty and survival. At 28, she shared a small home with her husband, Md. Manjurul Islam (35), their young daughter, her in-laws, and sister-in-law. With six mouths to feed and only her husband's modest earnings as a school night guard and tem-

porary office worker, the family struggled to meet even the most basic needs.

"Dreaming doesn't cost money," Ratna would often remind herself. Determined to change her circumstances, she joined the NDP Bahuli branch's Jagaran project. With a BDT 30,000 loan from the project and BDT 8,500 in additional support from the livestock

sector of NDP's agriculture unit (funded by PKSf), Ratna received training and technical guidance to start a duck farm using the loft method. She was also provided with 65 Peking ducklings—renowned for their superior meat quality.

Under NDP's regular monitoring and vaccination support, the ducklings thrived. Within 45 days, each weighed 3–3.5 kg. Just two months later, Ratna sold the ducks and earned a profit of BDT 12,000 after expenses. Inspired by her



success, she reinvested in more ducklings, and with each cycle, her profits grew. Eventually, she expanded her farm and purchased a refrigerator to store duck meat—boosting both quality and sales.

Today, Ratna no longer fears



the end of the month. She meets household expenses with ease, enjoys greater respect in her community, and has become a local role model. Several neighboring farmers, inspired by her, have started raising Peking ducks. Women from nearby villages now seek her advice on feed, housing, and farm management.

Her dream now is to transform her farm into a model breeding center for Peking ducks—hatching chicks locally to create steady employment opportunities for women across the region and inspire others to follow her path. For Ratna, the journey from hardship to success has been paved with feathers, determination, resilience, and a little help from those who believed in her vision.



"As long as my hands can work, I will not sit idle,"

Md. Abdul Jabbar,

Prabeen Kollyan Kormosuchi, NDP

Seventy-Five and Still Hustling: How Abdul Jabbar Rebuilt His Life, Twice

At 75, many slow down. Md. Abdul Jabbar, a resident of Sayagobinda Mohalla in Sirajganj Municipality, chose to speed up instead. A father of two sons and three daughters, Jabbar has weathered storms—both personal and global—and still stands as a fighter in life's marketplace.

A regular member of the NDP Prabeen Kollyan Kormosuchi, Jabbar once earned a modest

living from fish trading. His income was never abundant, but it was enough to raise and educate his three daughters before marrying them off. When it came time for his elder son's wedding, he managed it with joy and pride. But within days, the son left home, leaving Jabbar, his wife, and his younger son to fend for themselves.

Age and financial strain made

continuing the fish business difficult. Jabbar shared his troubles with the NDP Prabeen Kollyan Kormosuchi office. Impressed by his determination, the Executive Director approved an interest-free loan of BDT 10,000 in 2018. With this, Jabbar restarted his fish business alongside his younger son, slowly finding stability again.

Then disaster struck. The COVID-19 pandemic arrived, followed by drought, wiping out his business and draining



his savings. The welfare program office closed temporarily, and Jabbar faced one of the darkest periods of his life.

In 2023, when the program office reopened, NDP once



again extended a helping hand—this time with an interest-free loan of BDT 20,000. Jabbar and his son pivoted, opening a small fast-food shop at Milon More. The business thrived, and Jabbar faithfully paid back the installments.

By 2024, with the loan cleared, he took another interest-free loan of BDT 20,000 to expand. Today, his shop is a bustling spot, earning steady profits. Jabbar works alongside his son every day, living comfortably compared to the struggles of his past. The NDP Prabeen Kollyan Kormosuchi continues to provide regular follow-up support.

For Abdul Jabbar, resilience isn't a word—it's a lifelong habit, proving that determination has no age limit.



“Previously, hartals meant disaster for our business. But with longer shelf life and better preservation, we no longer worry about short-term disruptions.”

Abdul Malek,

*Rural Microenterprise Transformation
Project (RMTP)*

From Local Producer to Certified Dairy Entrepreneur

In Ullapara, Sirajganj, Abdul Malek has turned a modest dairy venture into a nationally recognized enterprise, thanks to the Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (RMTP) funded by IFAD and PKSf and implemented by NDP. His journey illustrates how local innovation can evolve into national success.

Under RMTP's sub-project

“Market Development of Safe Meat and Dairy Products,” Malek received both technical and financial assistance. With guidance from a research team led by Professor Dr. Md. Ashiquil Islam of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Malek participated in a breakthrough study that extended the shelf life of Salaper Matha (traditional buttermilk) up to 72 hours at room temperature

using culture technology. This innovation allowed his product to reach 12–14 districts, including Dhaka, Chattogram, and Sylhet.

His product line—ghee, yogurt, buttermilk, and desserts—received BSTI certification in 2022. Later, with project support, Malek achieved ISO certification, raising standards of hygiene, worker safety, and product quality. The ISO stamp opened premium markets, boosted consumer trust, and enabled higher pricing.

Adapting to changing tastes, Malek introduced flavored buttermilk—chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry. These new products, sold via mobile tankers in schools, parks, and public spaces, quickly became popular among younger consumers.

With a 35% increase in sales and 25% growth in profit,



Malek now dreams beyond national borders. His next goal is to export dairy products abroad with improved packaging that meets international standards.

Abdul Malek's journey is proof that when traditional knowledge meets modern innovation, rural enterprises can not only survive but thrive. What began as a small dairy farm has now become a beacon of safe, certified, and value-added dairy products—with ambitions for global recognition.





“By following scientific methods in fish farming, one can almost double the profit.”

Md. Mahamudun Nabi Milon,
RMTP-Fisheries

A Lecturer is Redefining Aquaculture in Natore

Md. Mahamudun Nabi Milon, a lecturer at Natore Polytechnic Institute, is proving that passion and innovation can create waves—literally. Born in Kalikapur village, Bonpara Union, Baraigram Upazila, Natore district, Nabi holds a Master's degree in Electronics and Electrical Engineering. But beyond his role as an educator, he is a determined entrepreneur transforming fish farming through cutting-edge technology.

Initially, Nabi started small by leasing a pond. His curiosity and drive soon led him to build ten concrete tanks, each applying the bottom cleaning method—a system that removes waste from the tank floor, preventing oxygen deficiency and ammonia buildup. This innovation allows him to farm Carp, Tilapia, Vietnamese Koi, and Pangash at high density with optimal feed use.

The results speak for themselves. Each tank, holding 100,000 liters of water, generates a net profit of BDT 32,400 in a five-month tilapia cycle. With ten tanks, his monthly income ranges between BDT 95,000 and 100,000. He doesn't stop there—he also runs a duck farm, manages fruit orchards, and mentors other entrepreneurs. One of his mentees, a woman trained in the bottom cleaning method, now operates her own successful tank-based fish farm.



For his achievements, Nabi was recognized as the “Best Fish Farmer” during National Fish Week 2025—an honor that cements his place as a local pioneer in modern aquaculture.



Guided by PKSF's Ibrahim Alam Sir, Nabi is now establishing a “Technology Hub” at his farm. This hub will showcase not only the bottom cleaning method but also biofloc and aquaponics systems, advanced vegetable cultivation, strawberry farming using mulching, and summer

His dream doesn't stop here. He plans to expand by adding another plot with ten more tanks and purchasing a truck to sell directly to markets in Dhaka, cutting out middlemen and increasing his profits while securing a stronger future for his family.

From classrooms to fish tanks, his remarkable journey stands as proof that innovation in agriculture can be just as transformative and impactful as any academic breakthrough, inspiring new possibilities for rural entrepreneurs.



"I never thought cow dung could change my life. Now, it feeds my family, helps other farmers, and protects our soil."

Ershad Mollah,
SMART Dairy

Compost, Capital, and a Dream

Ershad Mollah, the eldest of four sons of Abu Taher Mollah, grew up in the quiet farming village of Gopnithpur in Shahjadpur upazila. Though his father was a humble farmer, Ershad initially chose a different path—working as a foreman at a textile mill. But the repetitive grind of factory life never satisfied him. He longed to return to the land, to do something meaningful, something of his own.

Leaving behind his job, Ershad began farming and started a small dairy venture with just three cows. From milking cows to cultivating crops, his days became full—but fulfilling. Over time, his passion and hard work grew into something greater. His small dairy expanded to 17 cows, including 9 high-yielding milk cows. This not only gave him steady income from milk sales but also something else—cow dung.

Recognizing the potential of cow dung as organic fertilizer, Ershad took a bold step. With support from the NDP Smart Dairy Project, he took a loan of BDT 6 lakh and started producing compost at scale. He dug new pits and built facilities to process manure efficiently. Soon, the demand for his organic compost outpaced what his own farm could supply. So, he began collecting cow dung from neighboring farms as well, turning waste into a profitable venture.



dependence on chemical fertilizers. The environment is cleaner, crop yields are better, and rural waste is being turned into a valuable resource.

Today, Ershad sells raw compost at BDT 10–12 per kg. His enterprise has not only given him financial independence but is also creating ripple effects across the community. More and more farmers are shifting to organic manure, reducing their

From a former factory worker to a pioneer in rural composting, Ershad Mollah's journey is a powerful example of how local innovation, smart support, and sustainable thinking can spark transformation from the ground up.





"I want to show that tradition can survive and thrive if we add innovation. This is just the beginning of my journey."

Touhidul Islam,
SMART Loom

Reviving Tradition with Innovation: The Story of Touhidul Islam

Touhidul Islam, a 24-year-old from a traditional weaving family, has transformed his life with determination and innovation. Just two years ago, he was pursuing a BBA degree while his father, Abdul Latif, struggled to sustain their loom business. The family mainly produced low-cost sharees, earning little profit and facing an uncertain future.

Touhid often wondered how to change their situation but

lacked direction—until he discovered the SMART Loom Project, implemented by NDP with the support of PKSf. Inspired, he joined the initiative and received training on business planning, raw material sourcing, and sustainable market strategies. With newfound confidence, he persuaded his father to rent a power loom machine and took a leap forward.

He also learned natural dyeing

techniques and started producing towels, which quickly gained popularity in the local market. Encouraged by this success, Touhid expanded further, renting additional machines and diversifying production into sharees, panjabis, and other garments. His products attracted more buyers, and soon he launched his own brand—Habiba Sharees. His vision extended beyond local boundaries as he successfully exported lungis to Indonesia, entering the international market.



Touhid's entrepreneurial journey reached another milestone when he joined the SMART Loom Sub-Project. Here, he adopted Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) practices, including the introduction of Rapier Power Loom machines.

These machines are more efficient than traditional looms, consuming less electricity, making less noise, and allowing



diversified production such as shirt pieces, three-piece sets, hijabs, and premium towels. If widely adopted, such innovations could bring both economic and environmental transformation to the community.

Today, Touhidul Islam is recognized as a young entrepreneur who has revived his family's traditional industry through modern knowledge, creativity, and hard work. From being a student with unanswered questions to becoming an international exporter, his story highlights resilience and the power of opportunity.

Touhid dreams of expanding Habiba Sharees, creating more employment, and inspiring other young people. His journey proves that with the right guidance and courage, even age-old traditions can be reborn into thriving modern enterprises.



"I never imagined farming could bring such prosperity. With NDP's support, I feel hopeful for my family's future."

Abdus Sabur,
Integrated Agriculture Unit

Daily Wage to Tomato Pioneer: Sabur's Journey to Prosperity

In the quiet village of Nurnagar in Bhadrachhat Union of Kamarkhand upazila, Sirajganj, lives 28-year-old Suraiya Khatun with her husband, Abdus Sabur, and their two young daughters. Born into an extremely poor family, Sabur spent his life working as a daily wage laborer, constantly struggling to meet household needs. Alongside this, he tried cultivating small plots of leased

land for 3–4 years, but traditional farming methods gave him little return.

Though passionate about agriculture, Sabur had little knowledge of modern crop varieties, improved technology, or the potential of advanced farming tools. Each season ended in disappointment, with low yields and minimal profits. His fortunes began to change

when he learned about the NDP Agriculture Unit at the Katakhal branch. Intrigued, he approached the branch manager, who introduced him to agricultural officers. They suggested he try cultivating early-yielding tomato varieties.

With Suraiya already a member of the NDP Microcredit Program, Sabur qualified for support through the Integrated Agriculture Unit, implemented by NDP with financial and technical assistance from PKSF. Before planting, he received training on high-yielding



hile his harvest brought sales worth 1,63,000/- taka. With a net profit of 1,27,000/- taka, his life began to transform. Early cultivation allowed him to sell tomatoes at 110/- taka per kg in the initial weeks and 60/- taka per kg later, ensuring steady returns.



Sabur embraced eco-friendly practices—using organic fertilizers, pheromone traps, sticky cards and other organic procedures to protect crops. The results were nothing but astonishing. On his 15-decimal land, the total production cost was only taka 36,000/-,

Inspired by his success, other farmers in Nurnagar are now eager to cultivate early tomato varieties. Suraiya plans to invest in a cow and lease more land for better returns, while Sabur dreams of expanding into other high-yielding crops and vegetables to strengthen his family's future.

Today, Sabur's story is not only a personal success but also a shining beacon of possibility for farmers across his community.



“It is possible to build one’s identity through technical training. If I had received such advice earlier, I would not have wasted valuable years of my life.

Manik Halder,
RAISE

Building a Future with Courage: The Journey of Manik Halder

Born in October 2002 in Tengrail village of Jamtail union, Kamarkhand upazila of Sirajganj, Manik Halder grew up amid hardship. The youngest child of Prabhati Rani Halder and Shuklal Halder, he witnessed financial struggles from an early age. To reduce their burden, his parents married off his two elder sisters. After they left for their in-laws’ homes, Manik remained alone

with his parents. Poverty forced him to discontinue studies after class eight, but he carried a burning desire to change his family’s condition.

Manik tried different small jobs, but none gave him stability. One day, he heard through local discussions about the RAISE Project of NDP, which offered six-month technical training in various trades.

Intrigued, he met the project officer, who advised him to pursue training in motorcycle servicing—a skill with strong local demand. Determined, Manik enrolled in September 2023 and successfully completed training in March 2024.

Even after finishing, his thirst for knowledge pushed him to stay back with his trainer, Master Sanjay. He told him, “Even if you don’t pay me, I want to learn everything.” Impressed by his dedication, Sanjay continued mentoring



him, teaching advanced skills and business insights. Manik often stayed overnight at the shop to master the work, dreaming of one day running his own service center.

By early 2025, encouraged by



his Ustad, Manik established Shambhu Motors at Dashshika More, near Kamarkhand Bazar, named after his childhood nickname. With relentless hard work, politeness, and efficiency, he quickly earned the trust of customers. Today, he earns 15,000–16,000 BDT per month, ensuring financial support for his parents while building his own identity in society.

Manik now stands proud—not only as a skilled entrepreneur but also as an inspiring example of how courage, opportunity, and proper training can truly transform a young life and reshape its direction for the better. He remains deeply thankful to the NDP RAISE Project for opening the door to his brighter, more secure, and promising future filled with new possibilities.

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