Nurjahan Begum – an ideal Women Entrepreneur of Galachipa

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Nurjahan Begum is a member of Bakul Mohila MMWW group under Making Market Work for Women (MMWW) project of Galachipa Upazila. She is operating an integrated agro farm titled "Nurjahan agro farm" in Ratanditaltoli union. Before joining the MMWW entrepreneurs group she was cultivating a small scale of products as per her family need. She had no idea of large scale productions, marketing systems, or entrepreneurship. She was not linked with any input and output actor. Nurjahan Begum involved with Bakul Mohila MMWW group since 2016. From the beginning, she was participating in all kinds of project activities personally and jointly. Through Bakul MMWW group, she got training on value chain, sector analysis, business management, financial management, climate resilience sustainable agriculture, sexual and reproductive health rights, etc. Based on her capacities, the group members selected her as Farm Business Advisor and executive member of Ratanditaltoli Union Women Entrepreneurs Association. She is also able to set up a good relationship with the Upazila Agriculture Department.

The main identity of Nurjahan Begum is the owner of a safe agro-products producer and whole seller. She cultivates vegetables in 0.84 acres, Mungbean in 1 acre, peanut in 0.21 acres, and sweet potato in 0.6 acres of land. All of the crops she produced by following climate resilience sustainable agriculture. She is skilled in post-harvesting, processing, packaging, and promotion technics. As a result, she is receiving more prices from her safe crops. Besides, she has created a working opportunity for 3 women, developed her business plan and operating her farm smoothly including helps other members of her groups to make business plans. She established linked with different financial and credit institutions from where she got seasonal
credit to expand her business. Nurjahan promoted a climate resilience agriculture materials selling shop with the support of MMWW project. In 2019 financial year, she has been earned 75,710 (seventy-five thousand and seven hundred ten) taka only from her farm. The members of her family having good health conditions and have very good knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health and nutrition. She is spending money to purchase sanitary products from her won earning money.

Seeing the success of her climate resilience sustainable agro-farm, group members and community members have started practicing climate resilience sustainable agriculture. As a skilled FBA, she is helping others pursue climate-tolerant agriculture.

Her dream is to spear climate resilience sustainable agriculture in her group and community.

_Making the market work for Women projects brought about a huge change in my life. Through the production and sale of safe products, I consider myself blessed to provide safe food to the general public._

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**Program 5: Sustainable Peoples’ Organizations**

_Shushilan_ works with the most under-privileged and socially-excluded communities, with least access to decision-making processes. Despite grassroots development process people-centric development culture has not yet been properly institutionalized in Bangladesh. The poor and the marginalized could make meaningful integration in people's organization to bring effective social change, therefore, _Shushilan_ has undertaken Sustainable People's Organization program.

**Focuses areas of the program**

- Develop people’s organization and their leadership as most powerful instrument of grass–root mobilization and policy level advocacy
- Strengthen the capacity of community organizations for supporting different peoples of community
- Build the ability of female and male to develop communication and liaison with government, LGI, national bodies and other stakeholders to fulfil the need of the community and become active citizen
- Involve young people more in the community development
- Develop the capacity of female and male to work in a platform and establish unity for raising their voice and work together for common development

**People’s Organization**

The total development cannot be fully achieved unless people meaningfully participation. Keeping in mind Shushilan has developed people's organization. The notions of developing people's organization are to gain momentum in the process of human empowerment and development. This process will greatly enhance goodness of fit and increased sustainability. The organization now set up nearly 8,000 People's Organization under eight categories to help the disadvantaged towards establish their basic rights. The names of the People's Organizations are:

- Shushamaj: citizens’ forums at ward, union, upazilla and district levels;
- Shuvoshakti: youth organisations at ward, union and upazila levels;
- Shuvoshakal: poor peoples’ organisations at group, union and upazila levels;
- Shadhikar: women’ organisations at union and upazila levels;
- Shushamoy: farmers’ organisations at village, ward and union levels;