

From the Streets to the Classroom: Hasnahena's Transformation

Hasnahena, a 16-year-old girl from a slum community, faced severe hardship after losing her father, the only earning member of her family. Her mother struggled to survive by working as a domestic worker and collecting scrap, while she spent much of her time on the streets, leaving her highly vulnerable to neglect, exploitation, and abuse.

In 2021, she was admitted to Ananda Nibash under the DCHR project after being identified by the Child Development Center (CDC). When her mother later returned to their village due to financial hardship, she was re-included in the RESH project to ensure her education continued and to protect her from early marriage.

Now, she is a dedicated 10th-grade student. She loves drawing; has won several prizes; and has learned jewelry making, with her handmade products sold through Ananda Lifestyle. She dreams of becoming self-reliant and hopes to one day bring her mother back to Dhaka so they can live together again. Her journey reflects how timely support can transform a vulnerable child's life into one filled with hope and opportunity.



From Survival to Confidence: Shanta's Story of Change

Shanta Akter, a 15-year-old girl from the Sadarghat Open Learning Center, faced severe hardship after her father died in an accident eight years ago. With no income, her family struggled to survive. After her mother remarried and her stepfather refused to accept the children, Shanta was pushed onto the streets. At a young age, she spent her days at the Sadarghat launch terminal begging, selling chocolates and flowers, and collecting scrap. Living on the streets exposed her to serious risks, and she gradually became involved in stealing and drugs.

When she was 12, a field worker from the RESH Project of ASD identified her and enrolled her in the Open Learning Center. At that time, she could not even write her own name. Through basic education, counseling, and life-skills sessions, she learned reading and writing and gained awareness about child rights, drugs, trafficking, and child marriage.

Today, she has left harmful activities behind and has become more aware, confident, and hopeful. Her journey from life on the streets to becoming a confident learner shows how care, guidance, and education can change a child's life and restore hope for the future.

From Child Domestic Worker to Hopeful Learner: The Journey of Moyna Akter

Moyna Akter, a 15-year-old girl from Tarakanda Bazar, Mymensingh, has been working as a full-time domestic worker since she was just five years old. Coming from a large family with severe financial hardship, she never had the opportunity to enroll in formal education. She moved to Dhaka two years ago with her current employer and continues to manage all household tasks for a four-member family, working long hours from morning until midnight.

Despite her challenges, Moyna found hope after joining the Alor Sikha Centre in Azimpur. She can now read simple Bangla storybooks, write her name in both Bengali and English, and solve basic math problems. She has learned to count money and shop independently. Her interest in education—especially Bengali and Mathematics—has grown significantly.



Through awareness sessions, Moyna has also learned about health, hygiene, child rights, and the harmful effects of child marriage. She is now more conscious about cleanliness and personal care. Although she earns BDT 3,000 per month (with half saved for her future by her employer), Moyna dreams of a different life. With tears in her eyes, she shared that she does not want to continue working as a domestic worker. Instead, she hopes one day to return home and live a happy life.

Shaila's Journey from Domestic Work to Education and Empowerment



Shila, a 14-year-old girl from Rangpur, began working as a full-time domestic worker at a young age due to extreme financial hardship. Her father is seriously ill, and her large family relies heavily on her support. Five years ago, she moved to Dhaka for domestic work, arranged by her guardian in exchange for a small payment, with the promise that her marriage expenses would later be covered by her employer.

Shila completed only Class One in her village and had forgotten reading and writing until she joined the **Alor Sikha Centre**. There, she relearned basic literacy, understood child rights, and learned how to seek help in danger, including calling 1098. She also gained awareness of the harmful effects of child labor and early marriage.

Today, Shila is enrolled in **Class Three** at a formal school, supported by her caring employer. She has her own room, learns new skills like cooking, and recently received major medical treatment with her employer's support. While visits home are rare, she maintains regular contact with her family through her employer's phone. Shila's story reflects hope, resilience, and the transformative power of education and protection.

Nilufa and her family has a safe place to live now

Nilufa Begum lives at Vatidhal village surrounded by Boram haor in Taral Union. Nilufa was married to Choban Mia 17 years ago. But he died after the 14 years of marriage ceremony. Nilufa started to live alone with her two sons and one daughter and became helpless. She used to work as a domestic worker to feed her children. Moreover, sometimes she had to work in agriculture and earth work in haor areas. The house of Nilufa was so bad condition that it was destroyed. That time, she had to take shelter in others house. She engaged her 12 years old boy in a tea stall because of financial crisis of the family.



Whenever STEP & BuildIn project of ASD started work in Vatidhal village, Nilufa's family was included as a ultra-poor and most vulnerable family in the project. The WDMC and ERT of this village inform the project that this family had a need of a resilient house. Then Nilufa applied for the resilient house and after the assessment of the project team she was selected for the resilient house. Finally she has been provided a resilient house by the project which is BDT 300000 as cost. Nilufa and her family are living in a safe house and are able to sleep happily even in a stormy night.

Mohon Das is in the pathway to success

Mohon Das was born in a poor family of Kolidrum village in Haor area. He could not continue his study because of financial crisis of his family and completed Class V. There are eight members in his family including father, mother, two sisters, his wife and two daughters. Mohon has only his home and has no land for cultivation. He works as a day labour in other houses. It is very difficult for his family to survive with his little income. Besides, every year the plinth of the house is damaged because of the waves. For this, he has to spend 6-7 thousand taka every year. In a word, this family was in a very miserable situation.



In 2022, whenever the STEP & BuildIn Project of ASD started work in the Kolidrum village the family of Mohon Das was identified as an ultra poor and vulnerable family. The project provided IGA support for egg selling business. For this, Mohon was provided BDT 11,000 through a bank account. He also participated in a two days training program of the project. After that Mohon Das started his egg business. Every day he moves around to villages and collects eggs and sells eggs in local market and earns BDT 700-800 per day. By this income he has bought 40 ducks by BDT 22000. At present among them 23 ducks lay eggs. Now his income has been increased. All his family members can take 3 times meals. Mohon has a dream to educate his two daughters and arrange marriages of his sisters. He wishes to start a duck farm and increase his egg business in future.

Stitching a New Future: Sabana's Journey from Displacement to Empowerment

Sabana, a 13-year-old girl living in Camp-27, Bangladesh, faced a childhood defined by displacement and restricted opportunity. After fleeing Myanmar in 2017, her family's financial struggles and cultural barriers kept her confined to her home, away from the education she craved.

Her life transformed when staff from the Adolescent Friendly Space (AFS), supported by ASD, visited her home. They convinced her family to let her join a program that combined basic literacy with vocational training. Sabana quickly excelled, specifically in handicraft production.



Through the AFS, Sabana mastered the art of making mats, designer bags, and household items. Armed with newfound skills and startup materials, she began producing high-quality goods that she now sells to her neighbors and through her trainer.

Today, Sabana is no longer just a spectator of her own life; she is a proactive change maker. By earning an income, she supports her family's needs and continues to develop her craft. The combination of life skills, counseling, and technical training has turned her once-limited world into a future full of economic potential and self-reliance.

Resilience Beyond Barriers: The Inspiring Journey of Arfan



Born in the Nakphura area of Myanmar, **Arfan** faced unimaginable loss before he even reached adulthood. After three of his brothers were killed during the political calamity in his homeland, Arfan fled to Bangladesh in 2017 with his surviving family. His struggles deepened upon arrival; while living in the Jadimura Camp, he lost his father, leaving his mother to support the family alone on meager rations. Arfan, who is physically disabled and struggled with a speech impairment, became increasingly isolated, confined to his shelter by both his physical limitations and the sting of social stigma. He was a boy living in the shadows of his own trauma, unable to communicate effectively or imagine a life beyond his tiny cottage.

Arfan's life changed when ASD workers introduced him to the **Adolescent Friendly Space (AFS)** at Robi Tower. Through dedicated counseling and case management, he transformed from a withdrawn boy into an engaged student, mastering literacy and numeracy in both Burmese and English. Though physical challenges limited his participation in sports, he found belonging through indoor games and social activities.

Today, Arfan is a testament to vocational empowerment. By mastering the craft of making shoes, bags, and mats, he has secured a path toward self-reliance. Once isolated, he is now a happy, active member of his community, proving that with the right support, no obstacle is insurmountable.