

# Case Study

Dream of " Simi Murmu" for sustainable life

Village - Barokona , Upazilla - Parbatipur , District - Dinajpur



One of the POWER Project Direct Delivery sites is Barokona Village of Parbatipur Upazilla, a remote area where the Indigenous People lived specifically "Santal". It is approximately 10 km. from the main Upazilla headquarter and about two hundred IP were living in this village. An IP couple named Sumi and Murmu together with their four daughters caught our attention to highlight their experience with POWER Project. Murmu, Sumi's husband inherit 10 decimal of lands but failed to make it productive due to lack of knowledge on agriculture and sustainable technology. Due to poverty and no other alternative job the couple engaged into physical labor on others land. With the meager daily income it was difficult for them to maintain the family's daily subsistence like having three times meal in a day.

Sumi and her husband are group members of Gram Bikash Kendra POWER Project which is working in their village. During the project period Sumi received training on vegetable cultivation and cow fattening. Back home she implemented what she learned in the training.

How it started? Sumi bought a cow amounting to Eight Thousand taka (8000/-) last November 2006. Following the cow fattening process and of taking a regular care, within four months sold the cow in the market by Eleven Thousand taka (11000/-) thus she earned Three Thousand taka (3000/=). Sumi's interest increased thus the family bought again one cow at Ten Thousand taka (10,000/-) through loan referral of POWER Project to other GBK's Project which is the IPDP. Three months later, they again earned Two thousand Seven Hundred Taka (2700/-). The said earnings makes the family more active and optimistic to venture on the said activity hence they purchased one new cow with their own money and another one cow through loan from IPDP amounting to Thirteen thousand taka (13000) and they hope to get 6000.00 (six thousand taka) benefit from the two cows.

With regards to vegetable cultivation from their 17 decimal lands mortgaged to the other IP member, they gained Four Thousand Two hundred and Forty Seven taka (4247.00/=) within three months and the family broadened their activities, they are into rabbit and pig rearing aside from the previous projects they are engaged.

Now Sumi does not go for day labor anymore and their three daughters attending primary school. The family is grateful to Gram Bikash Kendra (GBK) for the changed of their lifestyle and even happier now. The family expressed that in the future they hope to make a little farm.

All these were realized through the POWER Project in partnership with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) that funds the training and with closed supervision of Samsul Alam POWER Project supervisor with his untiring patience and assistance (mentor) to the family. Sumi is so proud and sharing her skills to the other community members, hoping that others will be able to changed and experienced.