

Breaking boundaries: Anjona Rany is perfecting her life



Anjona Rany, the name of a successful Livestock Health Worker (LHW) and Artificial Insemination Worker (AIW) who severed the rural fallacies of patriarchal society and now living a dignified life with her never-ending endeavor for betterment.

Anjona is from the village Possim Debottor Baraipara under Rajarhat Upazilla of Kurigram district. Due to the poorness of her family, she had to end up her study at high school and got married with Prodip Kumar Roy, a non registered primary school

teacher. Her husband's little income was not enough to support their family with their only baby boy. Anjona was seeking firm a way to free them from the curse of poverty and secure the economic condition of her family. Just when her life and the lives of her child and husband were winding down in to the depths of despare, SDVC began to work in Anjona's village. The overall goal of the project was to improve the incomes and livelihood conditions of thousands of marginalized smallholding and landless milk farmers in Bangladesh, by incorporating them into a strengthened dairy value chain. Anjona thought to utilize her little knowledge about livestock services and joined SDVC project in 2011.

Anjona Rani obtained foundation and advanced level training on Livestock Management, advanced training on Artificial Insemination (AI) from CARE through Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). It should be mentioned here at this point that SDVC facilitates for better quality input i.e., feed, medicine treatments for the livestock to improve the milk production for the farmer groups. After training, Anjana was linked with Rajarhat LHW Association. Through building a good rapport with local government, livestock unit for continuation of different vaccine and modern technology, she became the vice- president of the LHW Association. Due to her prompt decision making skill, dedication, and wider acceptability, now she is very well known in her area, even in the adjacent communities.

Every day she starts her journey at early morning and moves day long from house to house and village to village. Sometimes her husband also accompanies her and also helps her. Now she earns BDT 15,000 (USD 182) per month. To widen her service area, she bought a motor cycle with the increased income which has boosted her income noticeably.

Anjona Rani and her family are now happy with their improved socioeconomic condition. Anjona is an active participant in the decision-making process of her family. She has well control over money, asset, and education for her child. She has been able to buy some furniture for her family's home, purchased repairs for her family's home and also has taken a lease of 6 decimal lands to utilize that for alternative source income.

Anjona Rani is now more confident and self reliant. She says "Everyone should try to change their own life, because it is in us to hold our destiny not in the stars!" She has demand for more



linkage with medicine companies so that she can provide quality medicine in better price. She also dreams for initiating a sustainable and profitable Information and Service Centre (ISC) at Kashem bazar in the near future. She wants to continue her learning and link her with more SDVC opportunities to be more empowered, more skilled required continuing her change for betterment.

Like Anjona there are lots of women who have great potentials to overcome their distress by breaking the cycle of poverty and gender inequality and make their life better. She has greater voice,

and often helps other members in the community to make key decisions. We are working closely to help them to address and achieve their goal.