



## SAYAPATH

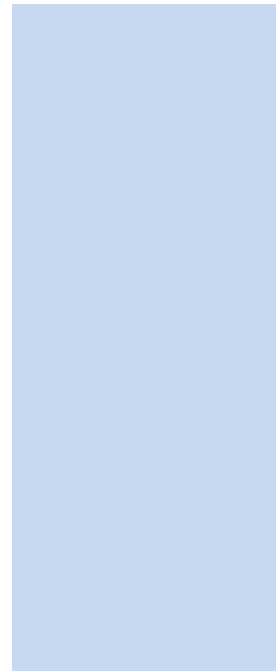
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Annual Report

# 2014-2015





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## **Acknowledgement**

Golam Maruf Hasan  
Executive Director, Sayapath

Sayapath, the human rights based organization in Lalmonirhat District, Bangladesh has been operation different programmes/ project for enhancing community capacity to self-improve their livelihoods and self- protect their rights and empowerment. The majority stakeholders involved directly in these programmes are women. Sayapath, within its fervid effort, initiated livelihood improvement of the grassroots through the projects of “Sustainable sanitation practices for disadvantaged women” funded by ACWW, UK, “Women’s economic empowerment” supported by Women Affairs Department of Bangladesh Government, “Electoral rights of the grassroots” supported by Democracy International/ US Embassy, “Girls’ empowerment” supported by PLAN International and “Gender Development and Women’s Rights” funded by Social Welfare Department of Bangladesh. Apart from these projects, Sayapath provided technical and financial backstopping support for food and economic security and emergency response covering wider range of the grassroots in 8 Unions e.g. Tushbhandar, Kakina, Bhotmari, Dalgram, Chalbala, Gorol, Chandrapur and Madati of Kaliganj Upazila in Lalmonirhat District, Bangladesh.

This is an annual report of 2014 to 2015; where Sayapath achieved significant outputs of the projects by empowering grassroots for food and economic security, sanitation practices, gender mainstreaming, skills development and capacity building for sustainable development. During this reporting year 2014- 2015, some noteworthy results were fetched from these projects. For this, 85% grass root women could avail sanitation and safe drinking water and practice hygiene within this sanitation project resulting in improved health of grass root women and children. 81% women could involve in self-help income generation as Sayapath developed their skills and capacity resulting in food and economic security and improved livelihoods. It is indeed a reality that rights protection is a long-term effort requiring behavioral and attitudinal change of both rights holders and duty bearers. For this, Sayapath always have the pursuit of involving the poor, reaching the poor and empowering the poor. At the same time Sayapath continues involvement of duty bearers by making them fulfill the rights of the grassroots. Sayapath also initiated good governance by creating greater access to democratic institutions, creating accountability and influencing practice of anti-corruption and rule of law at Upazila and District level. As a result, 68% grassroots are now aware of their democratic rights and their access is being created to democratic and service institutions. Duty bearers, alongside, are sensitized to respect rights of the poor, protect rights from abuse by others and facilitate fulfillment of the rights of the grassroots. As women are the key stakeholders of Sayapath, it always takes women rights protection in to account. Here, Sayapath approached women rights based issues through advocacy and civic engagement, public-private-coordination and networking with women rights institutions for progressive elimination in favour of grass root women. During this reporting period, women could avail their rights and mainstreamed into development interventions at community and

Upazila level implying women's rights protection. During this year, Sayapath achieved a success of empowering girls of grass root section by enabling them to self-prevent violence domestically and outside. For this Sayapath facilitated advocacy and developed effective networks with women rights based organization, law enforcement and local government institutions. For food and economic security, Sayapath developed life-skills of 56 women and 10 men groups in 8 Unions of Kaliganj Upazila and supported them financial backstopping for self-help income generation. As a result, 78% group members could operate their income generation activities resulting in food and economic security. The achievements ultimately reduce vulnerability of the grassroots in these Union.

I have tried my level best to highlight key relevant issues of our mighty organization- Sayapath most transparently while placing this report before all of you. I am sorry if I have inadvertently missed any pertinent issues.

It is my binding duty to express my gratitude to all of my team members. Without their support and cooperation it would not have been possible on my part to run the affairs of the organization.

I am grateful to the people who involve in the development process that makes the achievements fruitful. I am also grateful to our donors for their benevolent supports to these projects. I am also thankful to our volunteers for utmost efforts to implement the project successfully. I am highly grateful to our board members who have given their meaningful advice and thematic supports for achieving goal and objectives of Sayapath. Finally I appreciate the effort and continuous cooperation of community people who organize successfully the groups, participate spontaneously in project activities for achieving the outputs.

I look forward to ideas and initiatives sprouting all across the organization, to make our vision a reality.

My best wishes to you all.

## Making Positive Changes

Sayapath, within the projects, covers total 1185 households comprising 3555 grass root women and men as the primary stakeholders. Amongst the households it provided water and sanitation support to 1000 grass root women from different households in riverine communities of Aminganj and Kanchanswar village of Tushbhandar Union in Kaliganj Upazila of Lalmonirhat district in support with ACWW where Sayapath developed awareness and skills and installed WATSAN hardware. As a result 983 grass root women bear improved health for availing safe drinking water and improved sanitation. Sanitation practices amongst grass root women have made a positive change in their livelihoods by involving in socio-economic activities at community level. It reduces vulnerability of grass root women by involving them in self-help income generation.

Sayapath covers 2066 grass root and extreme poor women from different households in Barokhata, Fakirpara, Tangvanga, Singimari, Sindurna, Dowabari, Patikapara and Velaguri Union of Hatibandha Upazila in Lalmonirhat District for Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) project for their food and economic security. Through this project, it developed alternative life-skills and involved in self-help income generation. For this Sayapath could increase employability of 1380 women during 2014 to 2015 thereby involving in self-help income generation e.g. small trading, vegetable production, poultry and cattle rearing. The initiatives could change their livelihoods positively by enhancing their economic empowerment result in food and economic security. Grass root women in these two Upazilas (Kaliganj and Hatibandha) are now aware of their rights that they could involve in income generation and contribute to their family that could reduce their vulnerability and violence domestically and outside. It is viewed that helpless dependency on their male counterparts sometimes causes negligence and deprivation resulting in domestic violence that ultimately turns into victimization of divorce, separation, trafficking, mental and physical abuses and the likes. As the VGD project developed life-skills of grass root women, they could involve in self-help income generation and contribute to their families, and thus vulnerability and violence against grass root women is significantly reduced in the communities. They are now valued and dignified in families, in workplace and in the society. They could avail their rights as of their male counterparts.

Sayapath strategize development intervention amongst the grass roots within institutional approach by organizing grassroots into groups/ institutions as an empowerment process. Here, Sayapath developed 66 groups involving total 1185 grassroots including 938 women groups and 247 men in different communities of Kaiganj Upazila. It also developed 83 groups comprising 2066 grass root women in different communities of Hatibandha Upazila in Lalmonirhat district. Sayapath developed leadership amongst the groups and built institutional capacity. As a result group members could self-lead group based development activities and self-generate development benefits within their institutional effort. They share their idea and information through group meetings and accordingly plan their group activities for implementation through institutional approach. As the grassroots are empowerment within their institutional effort, they could now take their unequivocal stand on the points of their rights and denials. As a result duty bearers are instrumental to protect rights and facilitate fulfillment of the needs of the grassroots. The changes happened for institutionalization and capacity building of the grassroots as well as civic engagement with civil society groups at Upazila and district level.

During this year Sayapath facilitated advocacy with state and non-state actors, local government representatives and civil society groups for influencing policies in favour of the grassroots. Sayapath also developed Public-Private-Partnership between community groups developed and different public and private sector service entitlements. Sayapath developed Watchdog engaging civil society for overseeing delivery towards the poor that eventually created a service delivery sustainable social mechanism for the grassroots. The approaches change livelihoods of the poor in Kaliganj and Hatibandha Upazila by creating their rights based access to service provisions and empowering them for protecting their rights. It started creating their social and political space as the democratic rights.

In these communities grass root people and religious minorities could not avail their democratic rights as the common social paradigm. They are often deprived from electoral decision making due to hidden apartheid as being stereotyped as religious minorities. Thus, they are often subjected to violence during and after election. Sayapath initiated electoral rights protection of these downtrodden sections by awareness building, civic engagement, institutionalization and capacity building as well as policy debates with duty bearers and political leaders of different party lines. It was viewed that religious minorities are always refrained from having electoral space due to fear and unjust socio-political context. They were forcibly compelled to cast vote for anonymous and corrupt leaders or even deprived from casting votes due to fear of physical abuses by political demagogues. Contemplating the contexts, Sayapath organized disadvantaged people and developed their leadership and capacity. It also developed civic engagement and activated law-enforcement agencies for protecting their electoral rights. The scenario is changed in the two Upazilas as ethnic minority groups are now aware of their electoral rights and they could make their democratic decision spontaneously without fear.

As girls of grass root section are grossly vulnerable as the communities are adjacent to Indian border whether violence e.g. trafficking, early/ false marriage, sexual and physical abuses are the common place due to cross border crimes. Earlier, 35% girls of the section were subjected to illicit trafficking to India as the communities are the common trafficking route. Since, implementing the project- Girls Rights and Empowerment, violence against girls is significantly reduced in the communities. Sayapath developed effective networks and linkages with women rights based organization, law enforcement agencies and legal aid department for instantly reducing such violence resulting in social equity, family and social harmony. Sayapath also developed job-oriented life-skills of adolescent girls for employability creation resulting in reducing their vulnerability to a significant extent. Girls are now valued in their families and workplace thereby reducing domestic violence by their male counterparts.

In implementation of the projects, Sayapath always have the good ties with local government as community organizations and thus grass root people have access to decision-making in local government. As a result community people could utilize local resources for their economic uplift. Sayapath always encourages participation of community people in decision making of project management that it creates ownership to projects resulting in effective utilization project resources for achieving project goal and objectives. It also prioritizes involvement of project participants/ community people for developing newer business plans in meeting community needs.

## Leading Projects

During the year 2014- 2015, Sayapath implemented the following projects. The projects are continuing since the past.

### 1. Sustainable Sanitation Practices for Disadvantaged Women:

The project is funded by the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), UK, for improving water and sanitation of grass root women in riverine communities of Aminganj and Kanchanswar village of Tushbhandar Union in Kaliganj Upazila of Lalmonirhat district, Bangladesh. The project covers 1000 extreme poor and disadvantaged women from different households in these two villages for ensuring their safe drinking water and sanitation practices so as to reduce health hazards and improve livelihoods. Through this project Sayapath developed sanitation awareness and skills of the grass root women and installed 15 tube-wells in different communities and 115 latrines at household level for availing safe drinking water and improved sanitation practices. As a result 1000 grass root women could avail drinking water and practice sanitation resulting in reducing water born diseases amongst the women and they bear good health and involve in socio-economic development in their communities.



### 2. Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Project

The VGD project supported by Women Affairs Department implemented in Barokhata, Fakirpara, Tangvanga, Singimari, Sindurna, Dowabari, Patikapara and Velaguri Union of Hatibandha Upazila in Lalmonirhat District for food and economic security of grass root women. The project covers 2066 grass root women from different households in the Unions of Hatibandha Upazila and develops their life-skills and create employability. Sayapath provided financial and technical backstopping support for their self-help employment resulting in food and economic security and reducing vulnerability. In skills developed, Sayapath provided life-skills trainings on institution development and capacity building, vegetable production, poultry and cattle rearing, food processing and small training. It also provided gender development and

women rights trainings for developing their gender awareness and protecting their rights. Through this project, 1367 women amongst the total targeted number involved in self-help income generation thereby improving their livelihoods. As they could contribute to their families they are valued and dignified in their families and workplace that ultimate help create their social and political space in the communities.

### **3. Democratic Rights and Good Governance**

The project is managed by Democracy International and funded by US Embassy to Bangladesh. Sayapath implements this project at different Unions of Tushbhander Union of Kaliganj Upazila in Lalmonirhat district covering 4600 grass root and religious minority people for protecting their electoral/ democratic rights and creating their space in democratic decision making. For this, Sayapath organized the grassroots and developed their institutions and built their institutional capacity to self-prevent electoral violence and to make their democratic decision. Sayapath developed public-private-partnership and engaged civil society for protecting rights and fulfillment of democratic needs of the minorities.

Sayapath organized campaigns at public places on rights protection and facilitated advocacy with duty bearers and political leaders for promoting electoral rights of the grassroots. It also activated law enforcement and legal aid agencies for preventing any violence against the minorities during and after election happened.

### **4. Girls Rights and Empowerment**

Sayapath implements the project in support with PLAN-International with the objectives of promoting rights and preventing violence against disadvantaged girls. For this Sayapath cover 1600 disadvantaged girls in different Unions of Kaliganj Upazila in Lalmonirhat District, Bangladesh with the interventions of girls institution development, skills development and capacity of the girls to self-prevent violence and self-protect their rights. It also organized campaigns at public places for sensitizing people of all walks of lives for empowering girls and preventing violence. It conducted motivational works with the parents and gurdians/ male counterparts to protect girls rights at family level and to eliminate gender discrimination by mainstreaming girls in household decision making. Sayapath initiated skills development of adolescent girls through delivering job-oriented training on swing, food processing and the likes for creating employability. As a result, 760 girls from disadvantaged families could employ themselves and could contribute to their families resulting in reducing vulnerability and violence (trafficking and flesh trade, early marriage, physical and sexual abuses etc.) again disadvantaged girls in Kaliganj Upazila.

### **5. Gender Development and Women Rights**

Sayapath implements the project covering 1450 extreme poor and disadvantaged women of 8 Unions of Kaliganj Upazila in Lalmonirhat District. The project is funded by Social Welfare Department of Bangladesh with the goal of eliminating women violence and promoting women



rights and empowerment. Through this project Sayapath institutionalized grass root women and developed awareness and skills on women rights protection and violence prevention. It developed civic engagement for sharing women rights based issues to be addressed by their institutional effort.

As a result 87% grass root women in the communities are aware of gender development and 68% women could mainstream into development activities in the communities.

## **6. Rural Income Generations and Economic Empowerment**

Sayapath implements this project within its organizational fund for enhancing economic security of the grassroots by practicing savings and providing financial backstopping support for self-help income generation. In this project Sayapath provided micro-credit support to 1185 extreme poor people of 66 groups covering 938 women and 247 men in Tushbhandar, Kakina, Bhotmari, Dalgram, Chalbala, Gorol, Chandrapur and Madati of Kaliganj Upazila in Lalmonirhat District, Bangladesh. Group members practice their savings to be utilized for individual and group based income generation. Sayapath volunteers collect this savings and deposited to the banks and accordingly provide them micro-credit support. For income generation of the groups, Sayapath volunteers develop individual and group based business plan and accordingly provide technical backstopping support for production and marketing. Sayapath develops entrepreneurship amongst the group members and provides financial backstopping support for entrepreneurship development. For this Sayapath develops value-chain with different market actors for sustainable marketing.

As a result 830 group members including 690 women and 140 men involve in self-help income generation in small trading, vegetable production, poultry and cattle rearing utilizing their savings and micro-credit support from Sayapath. Sayapath emphasizes women's involvement in income generation and entrepreneurship development for promoting their economic empowerment as grass root women are always deprived from wellbeing opportunities.

In this project, Sayapath develops technical skills of the group members for production and marketing. For this, it assesses needs of their needs and resources and accordingly it provides need-based trainings. After training delivery it provides micro-credit support on their skills and business plans and monitors production and marketing activities through regular visits. Entrepreneurship development amongst grass root women changes their livelihoods and social security. During this year 355 women and 44 men could develop their entrepreneurship successfully on different income avenues e.g. poultry rearing, goat rearing, vegetable production and small trading. Thus they could contribute to their families and society resulting in dignity government and values and improved livelihoods. As grass root women could be empowered economically they could have their social and political space in their communities and they could make family and social decision. It is viewed that a significant number of economically empowered grass root women have their space in local government during this year 2014- 2015. The trend of women's involve in decision-making is gradually increased day by day in the communities and this is happened for their economic empowerment. The more they will be empowered economically the more they will have their social and political space at community and Upazila level.

## Increasing Support

### Volunteers in action

In the year 2014-2015, 32 volunteers involved in different projects of “Sustainable Sanitation Practices for Disadvantaged Women”, “Vulnerable Group Development”, “Food and Economic Security,” “Democratic Rights and Good Governance”, “Girls Rights and Empowerment” and “Rural Income Generation and Economic Empowerment”. In the structure each project remain volunteers at different tiers of management, coordination, training and facilitation. During this year Sayapath provided trainings for project staffs on advocacy facilitation, management, monitoring and evaluation. Sayapath always practices appraisal process for the workforce for developing their potentials and effectiveness in quality management and implementation.

Project volunteers devotedly involved in different tiers of management, coordination, training and facilitation and paid utmost effort with their responsibilities that ultimately fetched quality outcomes of the projects.

## Looking Inwards

Sayapath is continuously working at strengthening its internal systems *inter alia* resource management, human resources development, service delivery, sustainability and external linkage development to ensure complete optimization of all efforts.

Targeting stakeholders and delivering need-based services, Sayapath could assess and realize stakeholders’ commitment and accordingly set projects of sector programmes e.g. economic empowerment, health, water and sanitation, rights and governance, gender development and women rights, food and economic security and environment economy. It could best plan for programme marketing and awareness.

Signaling a streamlining of programme planning process and a better organizational efficiency, Sayapath attained diverse skills as having erudite volunteers devotedly working for the organization and programmes. The effort and efficiency is not a one-time achievement and recurring organizational development will be carried out to ensure that all the approaches, which have been put in place, are adhered to.

The Executive and General Committee members as well as Advisory Board of Sayapath ensure that Sayapath stays accountable, transparent and demand-driven to its work with and or the communities. In addition the volunteers are continuously paying their excellent efforts in commissioning to carry out Sayapath’s internal capacity to be more people-oriented in Lalmonirhat District covering wider range of the grassroots.

As a non-profit making organization, Sayapath could ably reduce operation cost by optimizing utilization of its resources and that could be ensured by proper guidance and expertise of skilled volunteers. Taking advantage of such skilled and efficient volunteers available, Sayapath team adroitly managed resources required by the poor Sayapath is working with.

## Changing livelihoods

### Ms. Protima Rani bears good health by practicing sanitation and hygiene



Protima Rani of 29 years, wife of Sukaru Das of village- Daskin Ghonashyam of Tushbhandar Union in Kaliganj Upazila of Lalmonirhat District, Bangladesh was living with extreme poverty with her husband and one son. Protima Rani since her childhood was not aware of sanitation practice nor she was accustomed to practice hygiene when she was adolescent. After being married she found herself that if she could not practice hygiene and sanitation she might be in hazard in her family. As she was not aware of such practice, she felt that she and her son affected with stomach diseases. Once she went to the local physician at her village and she could know that she and her son were affected by Diarrhea as she and her family members never used latrines nor could they use pure drinking water. Protima Rani leads a very penurious livelihood as they don't have any income source nor does she have any means for installing tube well and latrine for WATSAN practice, rather she used water from unpurified sources before and defecated in the outside resulting in contamination of water born diseases and unhygienic environment encompassed their household. Once she was suffered for reproductive health hazard, as she could not practice personal and menstrual hygiene as was not aware about. For this, chaos was always remaining in her families and she was divorced by her husband as she could not ably be involved in work and family income for her health hazard and her husband could not maintain properly food and victual within his own income and thus there was starvation and extreme poverty in their families where her son were compelled to be dropout from education.

Protima Rani viewed that her neighbors involved in Sayapath Groups in the communities and participated weekly in the group meetings. She was lured to be the group member and contacted with the group leaders. When she understood that if she could be involved in the group she could be aware of and trained on development practices in the group meetings as of the other group members. Protima Rani joined the group and participated in the Sanitation group meeting regularly. She realized that if she could join the group earlier she could never sustain with such insanitation and health hazards. As she was aware of sanitation practice she could install a latrine and make her son aware of. While asking Protima Rani, she replied that she and her siblings have been escaped from health hazards and she could now involve in any work and earn for her family. Other group members are inspired also viewing sanitation practice of Protima Rani.

## Ms. Nanda Rani bearing a happy family and good health for sanitation practice



Nanda Rani of 28 years, wife of Monoranjan Roy of village -Dasking Ghanoshyam under Kaligaj Upazila in Lalmonirhat District is bearing a very small land and they are 5 members in the household including she, her husband and their 3 daughters. She and her husband are day-labourer sustaining with extreme poverty. Nanda Rani and her husband are not educated that they could not earn satisfactorily due to lack skills and education and thus they are compelled to undergo extreme poverty and health hazards. Nanda Rani and her siblings sustained with inoperable health for malnutrition and diseases caused for poverty and economic insecurity. Health hazard is commonplace in her family as they are not aware of sanitation and pure drinking water- use. They were unable to meet their sanitation needs, as they had to search their food and victual always. Even they could not afford for clothing, housing and treatment where sanitation is so far. They were not aware of and able to sanitation hardware installation and thus they had to defecate outside and use impure water for their households resulting in chronic water born diseases making livelihood impasse and clichéd.

Nanda Rani involved in Sanitation Group at Aminganj and regularly participated in awareness building meeting facilitated by Sayapath volunteers. She was lured to involve in this group from her neighbor. The group leader includes her as the trainee for sanitation training organized by Sayapath. After attaining training and knowing the root causes of water born diseases Nanda Rani has been aware of installing and practicing sanitation within her means. Sayapath volunteers advised her and provided support to install low-cot latrines and tube well in her household and accordingly she could do installed and low-cost latrines and share sanitation know-how to her husband and parents and relatives. She always takes care of her daughters in sanitation practice in all family endeavors. She always practices her personal and family hygiene as she has been trained in sanitation training. She found that she and her children are now free from health hazards as she could ensure her family sanitation. In the group meeting she has shared her sanitation benefits amongst other group members that she and her children are not undergoing any water born disease and her children bear good health as she is taking care of her children's sanitation. Hearing practices of Nanda Rani, other group members are inspired to practice WATSAN as of Nanda Rani.

## Ms. Jishu Rani could avail social justice and establish rights in her family



(Jishu Rani sitting aside on the chair in the social judgment as protecting victim's right in the judgment and her husband standing aside her as an alleged one)

Jishu Rani of 51 years, of village- Uttor Ghonshyam of Tushbhandar Union in Kaliganj Upazila of Lalmonirhat District, Bangladesh. Jishu Rani bears 5-member family including 3 sons, she and her husband- Gandhi Chandra Das. They lead a very impasse livelihood for poverty and economic insecurity in their family. With a very little earn of her husband it is really difficult to maintain family requirements and chaos is the common place happened every day in her family. Chaos comes into being the violence and Jishu Rani is always the victim of physical, verbal and mental harassment caused by her husband. Once her husband abused her physically and Jishu Rani was sick that she could not work in her family nor could she prevent such violence as a woman in gender discriminated communities.

Jishu Rani is the member of women group operated by Sayapath. Once in the meeting Jishu Rani was absent for her ailment caused for beating by her husband. Group leaders and Sayapath Gender Volunteers got informed the matter from other group members as the neighbors. Sayapath volunteers asked the gender focal point in the group to investigate the matter and organize a social judgment in the communities. Accordingly the group leaders and gender focal point organized a meeting and arranged a social judgment involving women member of local government institution as the chair of the judgment (sitting centered amongst the local elites and observed victims voice (Jishu Rani sitting aside on the chair). Jishu Rani alleged her husband- Gandhi Chandra Das (Standing left-hand side of Jishu Rani).

As Jishu Rani has been aware of gender development and women rights from the regular discussion in the group meetings, she could make her voice against her husband and explained the matter without hesitation. The women judge has been convinced with giving thanks to Jishu Rani for her awareness on gender and women rights protection. Group leaders also explained the issues and illicit violence occurred by Jishu Rani's husband.

Finally, Jishu Rani could avail her social and legal justice by making a punishment of her husband. The judgment has been documented and signed by the participants where Jishu Rani's husband has been committed to give fine to her and it has been noted that Jishu Rani will make family decision and her husband shall obey to her advice and decision in all aspect of family endeavors.

## Empowerment of Ms. Monira Sultana



Miss. Monira Sultana of 23 years, daughter of Sultan Islam and Julekha Begum, of village-Sundrahobi of Tushbhander Union in Kaliganj Upazila has been born a very religious conservative communities where women are always in the veil and they neither talk with men and nor could they move alone in front of men. Gender discrimination was the common place in the families and the communities where women were always suppressed and neglected by their male counterparts. Women's decision-making and involvement in work was restricted as religious superstitions. Thus women have to undergo discriminations and such discriminations come to bring deprivation of their rights based opportunities e.g. education, health, legal rights and the like. As a result women of grass root section were always being the victims of domestic violence e.g. early marriage and marriage with out women's decision, negligence, dowry, divorce, polygamy, separation, physical, verbal and sexual harassment and so on. It was really very tough to discuss with the women in the communities when the Gender Volunteers visit there. Community women could never make their own decision with out informing their male counterparts.

Since working in the communities on gender development and women rights protection, Sayapath could develop awareness of male counterparts of different household to make their women avail their basic rights, as they are also the part of their families. Continuous awareness building of both men and women in the communities makes community people aware of women rights protection and violence prevention. Here Sayapath organized campaigning and focus group discussion in the communities and explore women rights based issues to sensitize community people. Thus community women likewise Monira Sultana could move freely for their education and employment and could discuss with community people even with other men and strangers to discuss community and development issues. Other girls and women are following Monira Sultana's work and they are also coming out of their families for work and education.

## Economic empowerment of Ms. Kulsum Begum through vegetable gardening



Kulsum Begum of 35 years, wife of Nuru Mia of village- Sundrahobi of Tushbhander Union under Kaliganj Upazila in Lalmonirhat District once led very pessimistic views of life for not having income making her family completely vulnerable. Chronic food insecurity always exists round the year even she has a small land at her homestead. She could not cultivate or produce anything from the homestead land before for not having skills and knowledge about vegetable production. Her husband is a day labourer that he could be aware of income generation at her homestead. Least wages made them to sustain with starvation every month. Once Kulsum Begum viewed that some women attended in Sayapath operated group meeting in the vicinity of her home. She asked the group members to get her involved in the group. The group leaders asked the Sayapath Organizers in the meeting about involvement of Kulsum Begum.

Kulsum Begum afterwards involved in the group and attained regularly in the group meeting and started making her savings weekly basis. Sayapath targeted her as the trainee for homestead gardening as some small homesteads belongs to her. Kulsum Begum attained 3-day long training at Sayapath office on vegetable production. After attaining raining Sayapath provided her BDT 9000 as the soft loan for starting vegetable production and marketing. Sayapath Technical officer and Programme Manager regular visit Kulsum Begum's vegetable field to oversee production and provide technical backstopping support for production and marketing. Here, technical officer and organizers developed value chain for market promotion of vegetable produced by Kulsum Begum. For this, they developed market linkages with local buyers, retailers and exporters. They also developed effective networks and linkages with Agriculture Officer at Department of Agriculture Extension of Kaliganj Upazila and Agriculture Extension Officer regular visit and support technical assistance to Kulsum Begum.

It is viewed that Kulsum Begum could earn BDT 600 regularly for vegetable marketing at the nearby markets e.g. Tushbhander and Kakina and some traders come to purchase vegetable from Kulsum Begum's homestead. Kulsum Begum is very happy to earn a lot and her husband helps her marking of such vegetables. Kulsum Begum is now valued in his family and communities as

she could contribute a lot to her family and thus her 4 children including 2 daughters and 2 sons could educate in the school and they could have improved livelihoods e.g. improved health and sanitation practice, good sheltering and clothing and the like. Kulsum Begum has economic empowerment and thus she is dignified in the communities as she could contribute to social development as of other influential. She has the plan to be a representative of local government institution, Tushbhander as her credibility and economic empowerment is known to all. She could change her livelihoods within a very few years by involving in Sayapath and producing vegetables as the Sayapath group member.

### **Goat rearing brings secured livelihood of Ms. Saleha Begum**



Saleha Begum of 40 years, wife of Shahar Uddin of village- Sundrahobi of Tushbhander Union of Kaliganj Upazila in Lalmonirhat District, led her family penuriously as they did not have income, nor did she have skills to get involved in income generation causing. Saleha Begum bears a daughter

Sayapath provided loan worth BDT 15000 to purchase goats and rear them at her homesteads. After six month Saleha Begum could start income from the goats and she could earn BDT 25000 from selling the goats in the market. Saleha Begum realized that if she could have more support she could purchase more goats and earn a lot. Other group members are lured to follow the income generation of Saleha Begum and they are contacting with her to know about how she could involve in this income generation, Saleha Begum is now valued in his family and in the communities as she should contribute a lot to her family that's Saleha Begum could make her family decision and lead a very dignified livelihood.



## Financial Statement

During the fiscal year July 2014 to June 2015 Sayapath makes total income worth BDT 5865523.00 (Bangladesh currency) from project grants, admission/ membership fees, passbook, and local contribution as well as from excess of expenditure income during the year.

Income and Expenditure during this fiscal year is shown in the following table.

| Income  |                | Expenditure  |                |
|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| Income head                                     | Amount (BDT)   | Expenditure head   | Amount (BDT)   |
| Admission Fees                                  | 18265          | Staff salary   | 1592650        |
| Pass Books                                      | 1140           | Honorarium   | 160000         |
| Local Contributions                             | 400000         | Travel cost  | 160000         |
| Misc, Income                                    | 5251           | House Rent   | 20400          |
| Grant from Department of Women Affairs (DWA).   | 1609758        | Office Expenses  | 281063         |
| Grant from Democracy International/ US Embassy. | 730000         | Health care service                                      | 54633          |
| Grant from PLAN International.                  | 500000         | Disaster management                                      | 80000          |
| Grant from Social Welfare Department.           | 200000         | Saving interests   | 101638         |
| Grant from ACWW, UK                             | 373865         | Bank charges   | 1005           |
| Excess of expenditure income during the year    | 2027244        | Poultry rearing expenses                                 | 920174         |
| <b>Total Income (BDT)</b>                       | <b>5865523</b> | WATSAN hardware installation                             | 12000          |
|   |                | Implementation cost for VGD project                      | 959758         |
|   |                | Implementation cost for democratic rights project        | 407030         |
|   |                | Implementation cost of girl's rights project             | 335000         |
|   |                | Implementation cost of women empowerment project         | 105000         |
|   |                | Implementation cost of sanitation project of ACWW        | 248865         |
|   |                | Revenue Stamps   | 1000           |
|   |                | Project development cost                                 | 153729         |
|   |                | Depreciation on fixed assets                             | 5531           |
|   |                | Financial support for women entrepreneurship development | 260970         |
|   |                | Misc. Expenses   | 5077           |
|   |                | <b>Total Expenditure (BDT)</b>                           | <b>5865523</b> |