

Empowering Dreams: Guria's Entrepreneurial Journey in Dhaka's Bahari Slum

Guria, a resilient 38-year-old woman residing in Irani Camp (Big Bahari Slum), Mirpur 11 under Pallabi Thana in Dhaka, is a beacon of hope for her community. Married to Md. Taher, a local daily laborer, they nurture four children, with the youngest attending eighth grade.



Despite financial constraints, Guria harbored a childhood dream of owning multiple businesses. In 2021, her life took a transformative turn when she joined the Self-Help Women Development Group facilitated by VARD of Bangladesh, assuming leadership within the Guria Self-Help Women Development Group.

Recognized as a savvy entrepreneur in Millat Camp, Guria boldly embarked on her journey by establishing a tea stall and selling plastic household accessories along the roadside. In June 2022, she took her first loan of BDT 10,000.00 from the VARD support project to procure materials for her tea stall, located a kilometer away from the wholesale market in Millat Camp.

Building on her initial success, Guria seized another opportunity by obtaining a second loan of BDT 20,000.00 from the MVM support project in April 2023. This enabled her to expand her business ventures, initiating the sale of plastic household materials adjacent to her tea stall.

With her tea stall operational from 7:30 AM to 9:00 PM, managed by her husband, and the plastic accessories shop running from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Guria's dedication yields a daily income ranging from BDT 400.00 to BDT 550.00.



Reflecting on her journey, Guria expresses gratitude: *"I have dreamt of starting a business since my childhood, and now God is helping me fulfill my dream."* Empowered by her success, Guria envisions a future where she owns multiple shops, providing employment opportunities for other women in her community.

As her daughter continues her education, supported by her husband's assistance, Guria remains resolute in her pursuit of entrepreneurial success. She attributes her achievements to the unwavering support and blessings received from MVM and VARD of Bangladesh, expressing heartfelt appreciation for their guidance and love.