

From Tragedy to Triumph: Moni Begum's Journey of Resilience and Empowerment

"Lost in the depths of despair, I found myself engulfed by darkness, unable to discern a path forward. With a young child depending on me, the weight of survival felt overwhelming."

Moni Begum

Member

Member, Guria Self-Help Women Development Group



Moni sought solace and support in a pivotal moment by joining the Self-Help Women Development Group in September 2022. In doing so, she embarked on a journey of empowerment and resilience, determined to carve a path towards a brighter future for herself and her children.

In 2020, Moni and her husband shared a joyous life in Millat Camp, but tragedy struck on August 15, 2022, when her husband tragically succumbed to an electrical accident, leaving behind their 25-month-old child. Compounding her grief, Moni's father had passed away the same year, leaving her brother, who struggled to secure stable employment, to support their impoverished family through handicraft work.

With her brother's family shouldering the burden of Moni and her children, she grappled with the daunting task of navigating life's challenges alone. Despite her struggles, the thought of remarriage was out of the question, as she prioritized her children's future above all else.

On July 25, 2023, Moni took her first loan of BDT 15,000.00 from the MVM Project Support, a program implemented by VARD in Bangladesh. With the assistance of her brother and the Group leader, Moni embarked on a journey to establish her own small tea stall.



Serving between 300 to 350 cups of tea daily, Moni generates an average income ranging from BDT 300.00 to BDT 350.00. Grateful for the opportunity provided by MVM and VARD, Moni expresses her joy and gratitude, stating, "It is a remarkable chance for women like me who once felt adrift and hopeless."

Living with her brother's family, Moni contributes financially by paying for household and food expenses. The success of her small business has brought newfound stability, allowing her to provide nutritious meals for her child and dream of enrolling them in a reputable school in the future.

Moni's heart overflows with gratitude towards MVM and VARD for their unwavering support. She acknowledges the transformative impact of their assistance, recognizing it as a beacon of hope for vulnerable women in the community.

With deep appreciation, Moni extends her heartfelt thanks to both organizations and the Self-Help Women Development Group members for their love and support.