

## Case Study

# Story of Marium Begum

Marium Begum, 45 years old, Wife of Ripon Boran (**WASH Inventory HH ID NO: 10794779070013130007**) lives in the Jolagathi Purbopara ,Community No:01, Ward No: 7 of Shialkathi union under Kawkhali upazila of Pirojpur district. Together with her husband and five children's (Boys-4 , Girls-1) has been passing difficult life and her husband is the only source of income of lower level.



Her husband is a day labourer. Marium is encountered with extreme economic hardship and financial constraints due to her husband's low income. She heard about the CATS initiative through Pre-triggering process. She did not use the sanitary latrine in the past. She once went to a courtyard meeting of ASWA-II Project on Hygienic latrine, Critical times of hand washing with soap etc and learned about the benefits of a healthy latrine.



She has received good lessons and knowledge on hygiene issues from the discussions. Due to the hygiene session, she has been able to understand about the negative effects of using unhygienic latrine and unsafe behavior practices. She motivated as well to set up Satu pan at her toilet. Then she took an initiative for constructing a Hygienic single pit latrine with raise floor. Through she lives in a river site area. For this she raises the floor of the toilet. She installed a Hand washing device with soap beside latrine for clean hand after using toilet. Due to Cyclone Amphan all courtyard is flooding at community. But a result of raising the toilet floor, the toilet has been safe.

## Magic Human Rafiqul: A Story of Sanitation Success Community

**Village Dr.Md.Rafiqul Islam**, Secretary of Community development committee of Shialkathi Hawladerpara Community is a real hero to achieve 100% ODF community declaration. He is 38 years old. He has a little medicine business. Though he is a village doctor but he involves in social work. Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is an innovative methodology for mobilising communities to completely eliminate open defecation (OD). Communities are facilitated to conduct their own appraisal and analysis of open defecation (OD) and take their own action to become ODF (open defecation free).

The Government of Bangladesh, DFID and UNICEF are working together on a Three years programme to improve water, sanitation and hygiene services nationwide. Community Approaches to total sanitation is one approach Bangladesh is using to rapidly scale up sustainable sanitation coverage and help communities become open defecation free.



## ISSUE:

With over 105 million people in rural Bangladesh, 71 million people do not have safely managed latrines and 40 million have improved latrines. Without including institutions, replacements, repairs and upgrades -- there are between 8.9 and 15.7 million rural households that need improved latrines.

In rural areas, this is the case for nearly 1 in 3 people. 1 share of open defecators by country, in millions open defecation and its public health social and economic impacts, can create a vicious cycle of illness, high expenditure on health care, lost work and school hours, and poverty.

NGO Forum for Public Health has been implementing the ASWA II (Accelerated Sanitation and WATER for ALL) project title called named -“**Implementation of Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS)**” at Kawkhali of Pirojpur and at Sadarpur of Faridpur District under Barisal and Dhaka Division in Bangladesh successfully with the close support of UNICEF. Globally, WASH is being given a high priority that “Clean water and sanitation” is a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the project framework/strategies, NGOF is trying to facilitate to implement project task where is focus to achieve ‘**Zero Open Defecation Free Environment and Water Safety Communities**’ in the targets areas through community led approaches.

**Shialkathi Hawladerpara(Community No:03)** is one of the community situated at Ward no:03, Shialkathi union under Kawkhali Upazila in Pirojpur district.

- Total area in this community is 2.5 sqkm,
- Total Household is 91 and
- Total population is 324 (Male- 139, Female-185, Children-148, Disable person: 08).

Earlier, At Hawladerpara Community, Peoples did not use sanitary latrine. Most of Community people use open defecation and peoples used hanging toilet due to water ways and canal. Therefore, the result of open defecation near water ways is that it is carried into the water system minus treatment. As a consequence, the contaminated water ends up in the main water source. When community people in these regions use the water as it for drinking and cooking (since the water is not boiled most of the time because of poverty and lack of education) it results in water borne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and trachoma. **Md.**

**Rafiqul** always try to do improved this sanitation situation

by own initiative. He always tries to understand the impact of open defecation. **Rafiqul** lost his grandmother to cholera during a major outbreak in 2004. But now this community is 100% Open defecation free community declared and every people use hygienic latrine and makes Hand washing device beside latrine and practices hygiene.



## ACTION:

In March 2019, the Government established the National Water and sanitation Policy. In partnership with the United Kingdom department for International development (DFID) and UNICEF, it is undertaking a new, three years WasH programme to improve water and sanitation coverage nationwide. It includes a range of GoB-UNICEF ASWA-II project by implementing agency, NGO Forum for public health. Shialkathi Hawladerpara Community was the first village in kawkhali upazila, to commit to eliminating open defecation. In December 2019, the Community held a celebration where the men, women and children of this community, UP members, UP standing



committee members, Ward WatSan Committee members, CDC members, Natural Leaders, LGIs and Communities peoples were attended in the ODF celebration events. Six months before, the people of Hawladerpara Community took part in a CATS orientation, WASH Promoter of NGO Forum for public Health and community organizations showed them how flies travel to and from excreta left exposed in the open and deposit fragments on their food. For the first time, the villagers recognized that they were actually eating each other's faeces. They were shocked when they understood the link between open defecation and disease transmission. During the orientation, the community decided that building latrines was essential and insisted that everyone used them, something which has ultimately enabled Hawladerpara Community to be declared open defecation free. **Md.Rafiqul Islam**, a Village Doctor, is one of those who received CATS Orientation at the introductory level. He work on it to the villagers combined with the 'triggering' that occurred during the training, motivated the villagers to build a toilet. Despite initial enthusiasm, he faced many constraints from villagers in Hawladerpara community. "We found it very difficult in the beginning to accept that we ourselves should build our own toilets with our own local materials," Md.Rafiqul explained. In the past, the international community supported sanitation programmes that provided materials and labor for digging of pits and building toilets. He said villagers "became very interested during the 'triggering' stage, but later, requested subsidies. At the end, after a lot of work, we managed to change their minds."

The project's key ally was the village's most prominent figure, **Chairperson of CDC Mst. Hasina Begum and Md.Rafiqul Islam, Secretary, CDC**, who declared that open defecation must end. Mst Hasina Begum set up a two-person team of CDC to patrol the village every morning. Villagers who did not keep their surroundings clean were cautioned. Then 65 number of latrines have been built/ repair with setting satu pan and changing Slab with installed hand washing device (Locally-Dram, Bucket etc) and which will serve 324 of Hawladerpara residents. More toilets are planned so that, eventually, every family will have its own. The building materials used are all natural, affordable and locally available (Wood, sticks and bag of cement). "During the next year we will improve the toilets with cement and better construction," said Rafiqul. "We will also established local latrine producer and will improve our toilets."



## IMPACT:

NGOF is implementing to focus towards key achievements, significant changes of the community, lessons learnt, challenges and as well as limitation. The project has tried to demonstrated extra ordinary success of implementing almost set target as per the planning. Besides the project quality upshots that are ensuring the community participation and engagement in the whole process of project activities implementation that were planning, community mobilization, resource mobilization, decision making, problems identification and selections.



As a result ODF (Open defecation free) Community declaration ceremony program was held at Shialkathi Hawladerpara community of Shialkathi union under kawkhali upazila. ODF celebration events successfully with the following systematic process.

UP members, UP standing committee members, Ward WatSan Committee members, CDC members, Natural Mohammad Delower Hossan, UP Chairman-Shialkathi Union, Here also present Mr. Abdur Rahman, Sub Assistant Engineer-DPHE, Unicef representatives, NGO officials, Union members and others. In this program, Hawladerpara Community was declared as Open defecation free community and distributed ODF Certificate to President of Ward WATSAN Committee & CDC. The Community people were committed to continue the achievement in future.



## CONCLUSION:

'Natural Leaders,' activists and enthusiasts who emerge and take the lead during the CATS processes, also play a critical role in triggering communities to adopt the approach and follow through with planned activities. Men, women, youth and children can all be Natural Leaders. Some then become community consultants, triggering and providing encouragement and support to communities other than their own.