

Peyera Begum works for slum dwellers with a smile

USAID & FCDO - supported Dhaka CALLING Project encouraged a community leader to come forward for proper waste management



Photograph 1- Peyera Begum is talking about ensuring proper waste management system in community and way forwards for solving existing problems among the other community leaders

Peyera Begum, in a single word, she is an ever green person. In community level meeting, she always cheers up community people through singing song, funny story telling, laughing and so forth. She is very popular face both for Balurmath and Boubazar Slum people. She has been living for 52 years in the slum and working at a hospital. She has another identity, she is the member of Bosteebasi Odhikar Surakkha Committee (BOSC), this committee works for ensuring rights of slum dwellers. She got married at the age of her 14. She has 6 sons and 3 daughters, and her husband passed away many years ago. She took care of her children fighting with poverty and other social problems. She always loves to stay among people. Living among the slum dwellers, she understands the various never ending sufferings of low income community people very well. So, she decided to work for those slum dwellers and their rights. Her sons are now working and earning enough to look after their mother, they do not want their mother to live in the slum and work for community people. But she denied to live in a peaceful life like selfish. As a result, her children don't bear any cost for her mother.

She only earns BDT 4000 monthly from the hospital job, yet she don't ready to stop. She has been fighting to ensure getting the rights of slum dwellers. Dhaka CALLING started working on waste management issue for the slum dwellers, after learning about the project she willingly started to work for the project as a representative of BOSC federation. She has been participating every field level meeting, events, campaign as well as she visited several time to 14 no Ward councilor office to advocated about the problems regarding waste management issue. She also visited 14 no Ward Councilor office to submit letter with demand on waste management issue. Moreover, when she get spare time talk to people about keep their surrounding net and clean as well as motivate youth advocates to keep working on ensuring proper waste management system in their community. Community people always visit her for their problems, she tried her best to do something for them.

She is a real leader and fighter. She stated, "I would love to thanks to Dhaka CALLING Project for working for community people and their rights on living in a healthy environment. "