

Rupali Begum is a Real Life Example of Bringing Change in KAP towards Waste Management

USAID & FCDO - supported Dhaka CALLING Project brought changes in a waste collector towards waste management



Photograph 1- Rupali Begum is working for waste collection from slum



Photograph 2- Rupali Begum is talking to Shopkeepers to keep bin in the shop for dumping waste



Photograph 3- She is giving Slogan for waste management during the Clean Community Campaign along with Community People

34 years old Rupali begum is a waste collector of Balurmam, Hajaribag area of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). She has been living in Dhaka City with her husband for 20 years. Her husband, Md. Mukter Ali is also a waste collector of Hajaribag of DSCC. Recently, Rupali Begum is living with her husband, 4 children, and mother in law at Balurmam Slum. She and her husband both together earn only BDT 9000 monthly. They are living in a small shanty house, which monthly rent is BDT 2500 excluding gas and other urban services. She collects waste from house to house of Balurmam Slum and dump at Secondary Transfer Station (STS). At STS, she has to wait in a long queue for dumping the waste. Maximum time, it becomes night both for them for coming back home. After that, she works for her house. They did not get any safety equipment for collecting waste. Few months ago, her husband was injured with broken glass in his feet during collecting waste, as result he did not get daily payments. After all those hard works, she just collected waste as a part of her work for earning money, she even did not prefer to talk people nicely while collecting waste from household.

After starting Dhaka CALLING Project, she attended different meeting arranged by BARCIK and learnt about other peoples' sufferings due to improper waste management. Gradually she has realized that waste collection may her part of job, but as a citizen it's her responsibility to keep her area clean and it's her right to live in a healthy and pollution free urban environment. She does not speak rudely anymore with the community people while collecting waste from door to door. Moreover, she talks to household members for keeping their household clean. Not only that but also she is actively working as a CBO members and participating different events while she is getting spare time, she is raising her voice to ensure proper waste management for her community.

She said, "Dhaka CALLING Project has brought changes in many places. As a waste cleaner, I am trying to keep raising awareness about waste management among the people and trying to drive them to keep them to do so. Personally, I feel very happy to do so for my community and community's people".