

The Life of a Village Health Worker



Umma Hani grew up on the *chars*. Even after completing her secondary education, she struggled to find employment. She and her family had a very low income, and Umma Hani was a housewife. When the CLP started working in her village she received training to become a *Char Shasthya Karmi* (CSK), a village health worker. This has changed her and her family's life.

Umma Hani spends her days visiting households, where she listens to patients and provides advice, medicine and commodities (salt, soap...). She says that community members are proud to have a doctor living near them. Sometimes families knock on her door in the middle of the night in search of urgent medical services. She says working as a CSK has benefits beyond the increased income; she enjoys providing a service to her community, meeting people and improving lives.

In addition to household visits, Umma Hani provides advice on contraception and other health issues at meetings. She also assists the paramedic in running clinics twice a month. As a CSK, it is also her responsibility to facilitate the village savings and loans (VSL) group meetings.

"VSL meetings are important because the women save small amounts, and take loans to invest in income generating activities" In total Umma Hani now earns about Tk.3,000 - 3,500 per month. She invests her earnings in her husband's business, (door-to-door selling of plastic goods), and the business is growing. They are saving for their daughter's education.

"Previously no one knew me . Now I am known as a doctor"

CSK's Profile

Name	Umma Hani
Age	24
Date of Joining CLP	September 2010
District	Kurigram
Village	Khadaimari
Marital Staus	Married
Education	Secondary School
Implementing Organisation	RSDA

