

# Halima allusion for others!

Halima khatun is 9 years old but she has experienced the hardship of life, the only area that didn't come across to her before SOHAY's intervention was education. She is living in a slum in hazaribug in Dhaka south city corporation area of Bangladesh. She had no dream, and has no conciliate image about her childhood, which could help her feel pleasure about past. She is a living history of 'burning from the birth'. Her father left her mother on the day she born because her father had expected baby boy but her mother gave birth to her. Her mother had no option than face the hard reality of life; she took the responsibility of feeding her two children (Halima and her elder sister) and her elderly mother. She had started different jobs to earn money and eventually turned to a vegetable seller in the nearby areas. Halima joined her mother after the marriage of her elder sister who used to be her mother's helper; she filled the vacant position of her elder sister's as an assistant of her mother as her grandmother is too old to fill it. Halima instead of going to school has started supporting her mother and has been doing the work for last couple of years until SOHAY entered to her slum and started working with parents and children telling the need and importance of education in children's life and how this could change their future, and it would be long-term loss in their siblings' life if they do not go to school. In between her 1<sup>st</sup> day in this world and SOHAY's intervention in to the slum she lost a lot of important years from her childhood, she and her parents have the idea that education is not for Halima, as Halima's mother was struggling to arrange daily food for her family members, so they didn't think they had any scope of educating Halima than Halima helping her mother for survival and that is the right path for the family, because survival is the main struggle here, no time to think what will happen in the future or down the line. SOHAY knew this is not the only situation, there are a lot of Halimas in our society who are out of school and their families are not helping them build a better future because survival is paramount because life is vulnerable.



Halima Assist her Mother to sale vegetables

Despite the above reality SOHAY strongly believes if there is will there is a way, hence work with these families. The organization knew it is hard to change families' belief and understanding due to the hard reality they face even then SOHAY's continuous effort to convince and persuade the community brings success. SOHAY argues that if they would like to see a different future for their siblings they have to think and act differently, and honestly have no option than sending their children to school. SOHAY continuously says this is the basic and most important weapon their children have to acquire to fight against poverty and hunger to shove the hardship away from their life. SOHAY did the same with Halima and her family, worked continuously with them, discussed at length to change their understanding about life and brought the education agenda up in their priority list now Halima and her mother are convinced that



Halima in front at UDC

education should be the way forward, and Halima has to join the school. SOHAY thinks poverty is a problem, the daily hardship and fight against the giant poverty made it difficult for the family to think through carefully what is the right path for them to follow. Now Halima and her mother has started to imagine better future for Halima and started to dream Halima as an educated girl, Halima one day will live with dignity and will turn skill human resource. As Global Fund for Children (GFC) create the opportunity for her to link with formal education in Government School. Halima and her family has started to think what went wrong in the past and what would be right for their present and future. Now Halima is fully prepared to get the admission in the upcoming education (January'2014) year. SOHAY feels very happy and thinks this would be the turning point for Halima's life and future.

-----