Parul and her husband Sulaiman used to quarrel frequently. They attribute this to the poverty in which they lived. In 2008, the family received a heifer from the CLP, alongside livelihoods training that included management and care of the animal. From this starting point they have accumulated a considerable number of assets. They now have two cows, a calf, and 20 decimals of land under lease. They sell some of the cow’s milk on the mainland, and use the remainder for their own consumption. They also produce their own food on the land they lease. They say that nowadays they are less poor, are much happier together, and that they argue far less.

“The benefits of CLP are broader than just the asset transfer. Parul says she has become more confident as a result of the training and social programs which are part of the package. She also says the programme has changed her perspective on paying dowry. Though Parul paid a dowry for her first daughter’s marriage, she says she will refuse to pay for the marriage of her second daughter. Such a change in attitude would prevent a substantial drain on the assets the family has accumulated.”

“Not only can I eat three times a day - if I choose to, I can have four meals”