

Shahazadi: Empowering Women in the Household

Participant Profile	
Name	Shahazadi
Age	25
Date of Joining CLP	October 2008
District	Kurigram
Village	Char Jatrapur
Marital Staus	Married
Implementing Organisation	Zibika



Shahazadi does not have fond memories of family life before joining the CLP. She was very dependent on her husband. He wouldn't allow her to go outside the house to work. She had very little influence upon the decisions made in the household that affected her life. Her husband beat her, so she was concerned about the repercussions of sharing her opinions.

After joining the CLP, Shahazadi slowly felt confident enough to make changes. In training sessions she learnt about her rights and the laws which exist to protect her. Whereas before she was isolated, she now has support from other women in the community. Shahazadi was a member of a CLP Social Development group. When her husband continued to beat her, 23 members of the group went to him and persuaded him to stop.

Shahazadi's status in the household has increased as a result of the skills she has learnt in CLP livelihoods training. She has practical knowledge of cattle rearing and other ways of generating income. According to her, her husband is impressed by this knowledge, and he now values her opinions. CLP training has also provided Shahazadi the idea of the 'development of the household'. Her husband has bought into this concept. Now, two and a half years after the end of the CLP package, its effects sustain. Shaazadi has significantly more control over her life.

