

Dreams of Sweety Roy: Disaster Resilient Bangladesh

Sweety Roy is 14 years of age girl. She lives in Kalinagar village in the Union of Kamarkhola, Dacope Upazila, Khulna. She is studying in eighth grade, her class roll no. 01. Sweety's father Anup Roy, he is a typical businessman and mother Mirnabha Roy works in LRP project as a facilitator. Sweety is second of three sisters.

Kamarkhola Union is the most vulnerable area of Dacope Upazila, Khulna. Kamarkhola villagers faced different previous devastating disaster like SIDR, AILA which had effect on livestock and infrastructure and crops.

In May of 2013 children group comes under the activities of DIPECHO VII projects through the participation by baseline survey by 11 to 18 years old children in total 20 children including 11 girls and 9 boys, and develop the children group. She was a member of DIPECHO VII child group.

Every month Sweety Roy and her group meet together and discuss about disaster preparedness and their rules in pre and post disaster. Sweety Roy discuss with her parent about the meeting purpose and its discussion and tell them to strengthening and raising their houses, making movable oven for disaster safety, practicing household savings in clay made bank as family savings for disaster preparedness, storing dry food for using disaster period, keeping important necessary papers, keeping cloths and safe drinking water for disaster period, how to help pregnant women, children, elderly, and persons with disability and aged persons. They are now aware about the necessary activities for pre disaster, during disaster and post disaster. They participated in the street play and art competition and essay competition about the awareness of disaster. By this meeting they build a team of 5 members and aware their neighborhood. Sweety Roy and her friend go to door to door in their village and aware their neighbor and show them how to take preparation of future disaster. The team raise awareness among to the villagers about disaster preparedness by using different cultural tools like Drama, Folk song, Pot song etc. which was led by Sweety.



Figure 1- Sweety Roy in her vegetable garden



Figure 2 Sweety Roy Practicing Folk song for awareness raising in to the community people

Before DIPECHO VII project activities with the children's of the group, they have no idea/information about the disaster, what will they do before, during and after disaster?

Since the Phase out of DIPECHO VII in October 2014 the child group continued the awareness raising activities led by Sweety. In cyclone Komen children of the group disseminate the early warning signal in to the villagers. They will continue the Awareness raising activities.

Sweety dreams in future she will study disaster management so that she will contribute to reducing the risk of disasters and help the people of Bangladesh.



Figure 3- Sweety Roy showing her neighbor how to store dry food for using disaster period, keeping important necessary documents, money , keeping cloths and safe drinking water for disaster period