

## Challenging the stereotyped thinking about land rights through Taramina's struggle is of having women land ownership

Taramina (28-30) lives in a village, Belbelia of Jamalpur district. Taramina is the secretary of one of the Primary Organizations (POs) of Uttaran. Uttaran is a nongovernmental development organization which is working on equitable land rights for all especially for women, landless and vulnerable communities. Taramina as the secretary of PO takes part to aware people especially the women about their rights on land. She is very much active in convincing people to participate in courtyard meeting and public gathering organised on land rights in her area. The process of awareness on women's land rights was not easy, rather she struggles much with the society.



Taramina is a woman of vulnerable society. She is a landless woman though her husband has very little land (about one decimal). On the other hand she never claims to her parents for her inheritance on land. Taramina said that her parents are also poor and land they have owned is very little, not enough for her brothers. She said more if she claims for land share of this land it will hamper the relationship with her brothers. Her brothers would not continue relationship with her anymore. Taramina believes husband's house cannot be the ultimate shelter for a woman. She thinks such a way because her first husband divorced her and she had to return to her brother's house. After then she married another male and now living a happy life. She is aware of limited women rights. Taramina studies up to class nine but her husband is fully illiterate. She tries her best to support her family as she does some handloom works like stitch on cloths because her husband is just a rickshaw puller and is not enough able to bear the expense of the family. She married plain rickshaw puller only for her dignity in the society as she has found that women have no respect without husband. Taramina has one daughter and one son.

She regularly attends all the meeting of the primary organization and local bhumi committee which is arranged by Uttaran. She received knowledge on women's land rights,

calculation of inheritance land and survey-record by attending the courtyard meeting. The staff of Uttaran asked me to support him in educating other women on land rights. Though at the beginning female's attendance in the meeting was not acceptable by the men of this area, as they said "*what females will do attending the meeting; what they understand about land etc.*" The women of this area overcome this situation with the support of Uttaran. We suggested and supported Uttaran to arrange a meeting with men to make them understand about the females' rights on land. After campaigning door to door when women convinced about Uttaran's work they attend courtyard meeting and select Taramina as their secretary. Taramina is one of them who are very active, convincing and more than that she is knowledgeable enough among others. She told others to present at the time of land survey to reduce the confusion about their own land area. She also added that she will try to work her best on land rights not just for her but her children's future. She is now concerning people about to collect all kind of papers for land record because surveyors will start work on land recording very soon.

