

## From Struggle to Stability — A Plumber's Journey to Dignity and Growth through Skills Training in Nazirpur

### Background

In Purbo Banuari village under Matibhanga Union of Nazirpur Upazila, Pirojpur district, lives Md. Babul Fakir, a hardworking plumber from a six-member family. For many years, Babul struggled to make ends meet. His income was irregular, averaging BDT 8,000–9,000 per month, which was insufficient to support his children's education or even to manage daily household expenses. He often fell into debt and had to depend on small jobs with local farmers to survive. Financial hardship frequently caused family tensions, and the situation seemed hopeless.

### Opportunity through Training

Two months ago, with the support of Rafiq Bhai, a community member from Matibhanga, Babul participated in a skills development training organized by EPRC at its Nazirpur office.

The training brought together local tube-well mechanics, water dealers, and hardware shop owners. It covered key topics such as:

- Safe water and sanitation management
- Arsenic contamination and mitigation awareness
- Business development and customer service techniques



This integrated approach not only enhanced participants' technical understanding but also equipped them with entrepreneurship skills to expand income-generating opportunities within their communities.

### Putting Skills into Practice

Inspired by the training, Babul took a small but bold step forward. Using his limited savings, he purchased essential tube-well and plumbing materials and also took some goods on credit from a local hardware shop. Now, whenever he goes for plumbing or tube-well repair work, he carries a few necessary materials with him. If additional items are required during work, he can immediately supply them to the customer—saving time and increasing his reliability. This simple but effective approach has earned him a reputation for efficiency and professionalism, resulting in a steady flow of new clients.

### Collaboration and Growth

Babul also maintains regular contact with two other experienced boring mechanics who attended the same training. They frequently call him for joint assignments, enabling him to gain practical experience and expand his client network. His improved skills, combined with collaboration and better business management, have significantly increased his income.

Today, Babul earns over BDT 22,000 per month—more than double his previous income. He has even hired two assistants who now work under his supervision.

### Family and Social Impact

With a stable income, Babul no longer needs to migrate for work. He can now afford his children's education, manage household expenses comfortably, and spend more time with his family. The earlier financial stress and disputes at home have subsided, and a sense of peace and harmony has returned to his household.

He proudly shares,

*“Now I can see a future for my children. I work locally, earn well, and live with dignity. My family is happy again.”*

### Future Aspirations

Looking ahead, Babul dreams of forming an association with his wife and fellow workers to establish a small contracting company that can serve more communities with safe water and sanitation services. His transformation demonstrates how localized skill development, paired with entrepreneurship support, can empower individuals to achieve both economic stability and community well-being.

### Key Results Summary

- Participated in EPRC's training on safe water, sanitation, and small business management.
- Applied new skills to establish a self-sustaining plumbing and tube-well service business.
- Increased income by over 150%, improving family livelihood and children's education.
- Created employment for two additional local youth.
- Enhanced community access to safe water and hygiene services.



### Acknowledgement

This success story reflects the impact of EPRC's community-based entrepreneurship training, supported by GoB-UNICEF Bangladesh, in improving livelihoods and strengthening the local water and sanitation service ecosystem in rural Bangladesh.