

Livelihood Recovery Initiative during & Post Covid-19 Pandemic

Ms. Eliza Basumatary is a 19 years old adolescent girl residing at Gwjwnpur Forest Village of Indo Bhutan Border.

Ms. Eliza Basumatary belongs to a Below Poverty Line family. Her father Mr. Arun Basumatary is the only breadwinner of the family who works as a daily wage labourer. Eliza's mother Mrs Sumitra Basumatary is a house wife.

Her parents were unable to support her further studies due to low family income. She had to live in the relief camp along with her parents and siblings due to the conflict occurred in their areas. Thus, they lost all their valuable belongings and livestock and

hence the income badly deteriorated. Living in the camp for months was very hard for the young adolescent girl because it was not safe in the open camps. She was at the verge of being trafficked. During such time, young adolescent girls easily fall in the evil hands of traffickers. At such a point of time, NEDAN Foundation happened to visit the inmates living in relief camps of their area and received the information about Ms. Eliza's plight. Eliza was rescued from this harsh situation and provided shelter in Destination Girls Home which saved her from future atrocities. Ms. Eliza studied till 10th standard from Swrang High School, Kokrajhar and resided at Destination Girls Home under NEDAN's support and guidance. NEDAN Foundation also supported her financially & emotionally to complete H.S 1st and 2nd year in Arts from St. Ann's College, Kokrajhar. Eliza passed her higher secondary examination with good result and got admission to study in Kokrajhar Govt. College. At present Eliza is studying in B.A 2nd semester in Kokrajhar Government College. NEDAN Foundation is still supporting her educational expenses like admission fee, books, uniform etc. It was immense struggle & commitment for NEDAN



Foundation to bring her back from the cruel reality of life and make her a constructive citizen by empowering through education.

Covid 19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown badly affected the daily life of the people where Eliza is no exception. She had to sell her mobile phone in order to survive. But NEDAN Foundation brought a ray of hope to her where she could find an opportunity to earn in the Covid 19 crisis by stitching face mask with her friend Nilima.

The masks produced by Eliza and Nilima were distributed among the 10,000 adolescent boys and girls of different villages of Kokrajhar district along with the dignity and hygiene kits.

NEDAN Foundation paid Rs 20 per face mask for stitching. Eliza produces 40 pieces per day and that makes $40 \times 20 = \text{Rs } 800$ income per day. So stitching the mask alone Eliza is earning $800 \times 24 = 19,200$ Rs. per month during this lockdown period. With this income Eliza is now able to provide for her family lending a hand to her father's earning. Now she is leading a good life by forgetting all the hardships faced in the relief camp.