

Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) Dadu

Case Study # 3

Hygiene & Cleanliness Changed Life of Aameena Begum

Najam Colony U.C # 3

Aameena Begum is a house wife liveing with her husband and five kids in Najam colony union council 3, city Dadu. Her source of livelihood is two buffalos and 3 calves. She sales the milk of those buffalos and survives. She shared that before joining ECG she was not concern about many basic things like about the cleanliness especially in herself, among her children and even at home. *Aameena Begum* shared that she used to bind buffalo and calves at her home where she used to sleep with her children, and therefore had no information about the consequences of sleeping near to animals. She also did not use to clean the animals waste properly. According to her, the huge amount of money was spent by them on the treatment of her children on monthly basis. Even they had no idea about the reason of falling children ill most of the time.

Aameena Begum shared that “One day, the female staff of Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP) visited the house which was close to my home. They held meeting with the women of our muhalla. Suddenly, a female WASH officer of CSSP glanced at my home and surprisingly called me to listen her. When I went to listen her, she asked me to sit with her for just five minutes, and then she explained me about the health consequences of sleeping near to animals and not properly cleaning the animals’ waste. That moment took me by shock to realize that it was the main cause of my children repeatedly falling ill. She opened my eyes towards the importance of cleanliness and consequences of unhygienic things & practices. And from the very next day, I changed my living style”.

Ameena Begum joined ECG (Effective Citizen Group) female group as a member. In the next visit after 15 to 20 days, she called the WASH Officer and showed her home around. *Ameena* has now revived her living style; she changed the look of her home as it was cleaned, there was separate place for animals and the animal waste was not available at the animal's side. She herself was looking cleaned and her children too. *Ameena* thanked to CSSP team for opening her eyes towards the importance of cleanliness. She also shared that since the day she was accessed by CSSP team; her children have not fallen ill, otherwise within every 15 days her at least any one of child fell ill.

Currently, *Ameena* attends meetings of ECG and WASH groups on regular basis and also participate in trainings and awareness sessions on WASH. In trainings and sessions she learn about cleanliness and reducing health risks. According to her, waterborne and other diseases reduced by 80% at her home by taking preventive measures. After attending sessions on safe drinking water, she boils water before drinking and keeps all pots clean. She also shares this knowledge to other women of her muhalla. She feels a great change in her personality after joining ECG. Before joining the Group she was very shy with no confidence even to speak in sessions but now she is confident and gives her input in sessions. *Ameena* wishes to spread awareness among people on cleanliness and hygiene practices to end dangerous diseases and save the life of poor children and people of the muhalla.