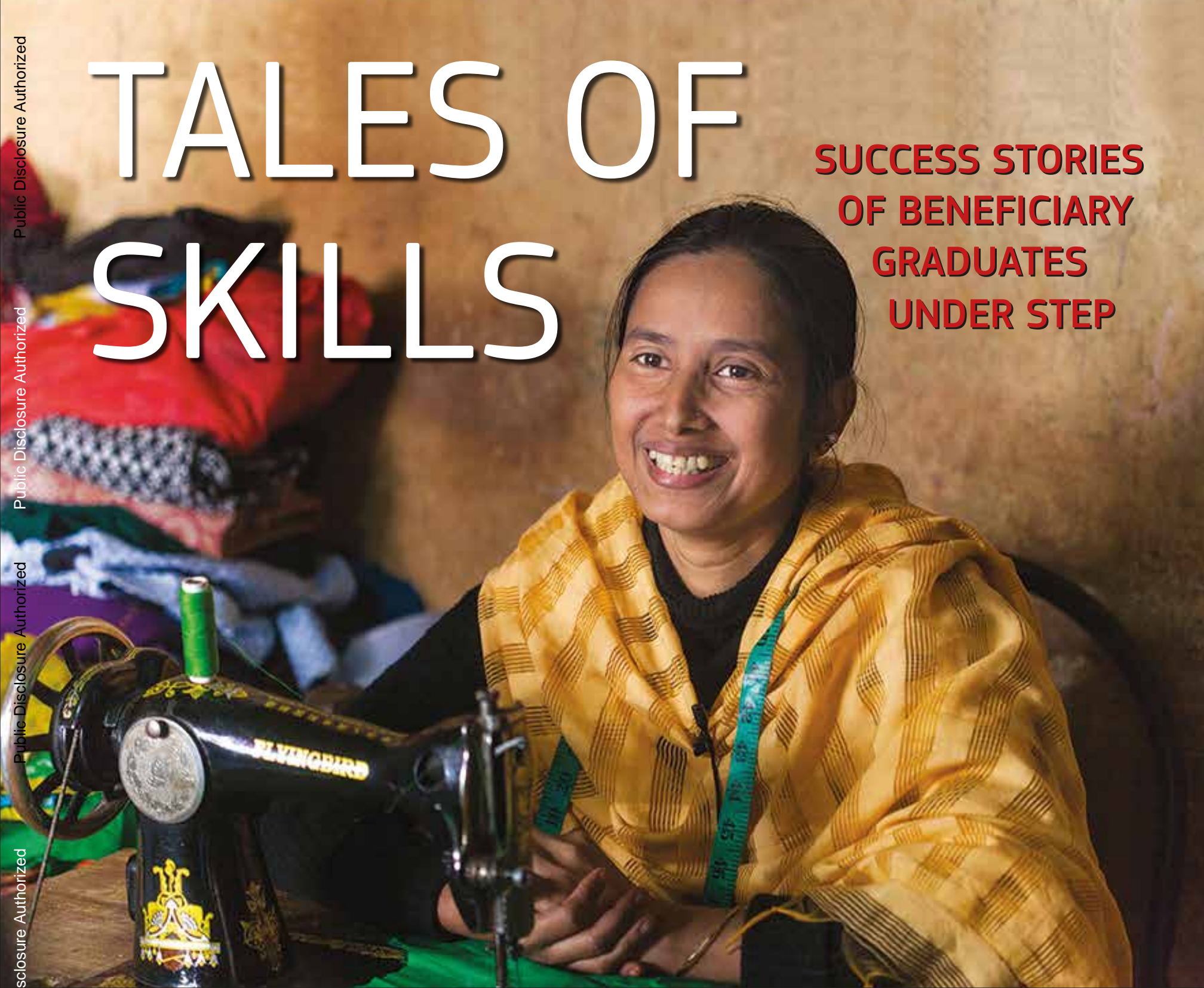


TALES OF SKILLS

**SUCCESS STORIES
OF BENEFICIARY
GRADUATES
UNDER STEP**



TALES OF SKILLS

SUCCESS STORIES OF BENEFICIARY
GRADUATES UNDER STEP

Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP)

Since 2010, the Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP) has been working to ensure quality and relevant technical and vocational education and training in Bangladesh. Till date, the project has around 400,000 beneficiaries from all over the country. The project is funded by the Government of Bangladesh, the World Bank and Global Affairs Canada. **For more information, visit: www.step-dte.gov.bd**

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TALES OF SKILLS

SUCCESS STORIES OF BENEFICIARY
GRADUATES UNDER STEP



FOREWORD

Skilling the youth of Bangladesh has become the number one development goal. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has a high potential to contribute to the human development and economic growth which has vividly acknowledged in the National Education Policy (2010), 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) and National Skills Development Policy (2011).

Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP) has achieved impressive success in reshaping the scope and capacity of skills providing institutions. There are manifolds increase of enrollment of students at the polytechnic through introduction of universal stipend for female and proxy-means targeting for male students. While short-term training courses and recognition of prior learning programs providing grants to the underprivileged beneficiaries to equip with marketable skills. Many of these beneficiaries have graduated and currently engaged in gainful jobs in various reputed public and private institutions. This book is an effort to reach out to those beneficiaries and learn about their stories of transformation. The book is an effort to share our experiences with pictures and stories of our development heroes.

The STEP is financed by the Government of Bangladesh, The World Bank and Global Affairs of Canada. The Canadian funds specifically help to introduce the universal stipend to the female beneficiaries and made a significant contribution to uplifting the lives of disadvantage female beneficiaries. The publication of this book recognizes the contribution of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and National Skills Development Council.

The technical support of Drik Pictures and Library is highly appreciated for the design and content development with relentless support from the STEP team.

Finally, we would like to express our pleasure in publishing the book which not only demonstrates the success of STEP beneficiaries but also gives meaning to our joint efforts. We expect that the book will inspire the present and future skills strengthening endeavors and motivate our partners with whom we share the common development goals of Bangladesh.

CONTENTS

ALEYA AKTHER AALO, Trainer, CHITTAGONG	13
BIJAYA CHAKMA, Founder and Trainer, RANGAMATI	17
MD. MOJIBUL HAQUE, Instructor, RANGAMATI	21
FATIHA KHANOM, Beautician, DHAKA	25
TANIA HAIDER SHOMA, Customer care Executive, DHAKA	29
MD. ABU TAHER, Mechanic in-charge, BANDARBAN	33
MST. JANNATUL KOBRA SHAMA, Director, RAJSHAHI	37
JHARNA AKTHER, Junior Instructor, THAKURGAON	41
MD. MOINUDDIN, Proprietor, BANDARBAN	47
LOPA ROY, Executive, DHAKA	51
SHEEMA AKTHER, Freelance Tailor and Cleaning Associate, CHITTAGONG	55
MD. ABU JAFAR MIAJI, Mechanical Engineer, CHITTAGONG	59
MST. MAHMUDA AKTHER MAYA, Driver, PANCHAGARH	63

MAHMUDA SIDDIKA, Proprietor, RAJSHAHI	67
M. ROBIUL ISLAM, Instructor, DHAKA	71
MORSHEDA BEGUM MOHSENA, Proprietor, CHITTAGONG	75
MST. SHAMMI AKTHER, Trainer, BOGRA	79
MD. ABU SAYEED, Junior Instructor, THAKURGAON	83
SHARMIN AKTHER SHIKHA, Assistant Manager, DHAKA	87
PRIYANKA CHAK, Supervisor, DHAKA	91
MD. MAHDUNNABI BIPLOB, Managing Director, BOGRA	95
SOMA RANI SARKAR, Junior Instructor, NAGAON	99
SAMSUN NAHAR, Community Healthcare Provider, THAKURGAON	103
MD. SAMIDUL ISLAM, Bangladesh Navy, CHITTAGONG	107
SALMA FERDOUSI, Instructor, DHAKA	111
MD. GOLAM RUBBANI, Proprietor, MAHAsthANGARH	115
RATAN CHANDRA BURMAN, Instructor, PANCHAGARH	119









ALEYA AKTHER AALO

Trainer

Modern Tailoring Science and Embroidery

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Chittagong District Office



I NEVER THOUGHT I WILL BE A TEACHER!

As a little girl, Aleya always wanted to have fancy dresses made by tailors, which her family could not afford.

The sadness remained with her as she grew up. It inspired her to learn tailoring. In 2010, she joined a short course on tailoring and embroidery from the Women Vocational Board. She received stipend from STEP, which helped her continue with the training. Immediately after the training, she got a job as a trainer with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. She now trains other women on 'Modern Tailoring and Embroidery'. Aleya is also currently pursuing her master's in political science at Chittagong College. She is determined to make a better future for her.



Comp
Techn



BIJAYA CHAKMA

Founder and Trainer

Knowledge Source Computer Learning Centre

Rangamati



I AM PROUD OF MY STUDENTS!

Ever since she can remember, helping others is what makes Bijaya happy. In 2008, she earned her diploma in computer technology from the Bangladesh Sweden Polytechnic Institute, and began her career as a computer trainer. Over the years, her urge to do something independently and help others prompted her to establish her own firm 'Knowledge Source Computer Learning Center'. Today, her firm trains people from all across the country.





MD. MOJIBUL HAQUE

Instructor

Hazrat Abdullah Fakir Mazar Technical Institute

Rangamati



STEP IS A BLESSING IN MY LIFE...

Md. Mojibul Haque knows how hard life could be for an unemployed man in the City. Thick, peeling skin of his foot sole speaks of the dust he accumulated from the streets of Dhaka. However, his life took a turn for the better when he enrolled in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) course. In this program, he acquired new skills and quickly got a good job. His employer at the refrigerator and air conditioner repairing shop was pleased with his work and expertise that he offered him a position as an instructor at Hazrat Abdullah Fakir Mazar Technical Institute. Mojibul now dreams of studying more and pursue a bachelor degree in business studies. He considers STEP as a blessing in his life, because it gave him ambition.







FATIHA KHANOM

Beautician
Self-employed
Dhaka

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT



Fatiha always had a passion for makeup artistry. As a little girl, she dreamt of becoming a makeup artist. In 2015, Fatiha completed her short course on beautification from Dhaka Ahsania Mission. During her course, her relatives and friends got tired of her 'beauty experiments.' But today, they take pride in her work and have become her regular customers. Fatiha gives full credit the short course for her skills from. She is optimistic about her future and wants to establish her as a top beautician in the city. She dreams to open her own business and create employment opportunities for other women.







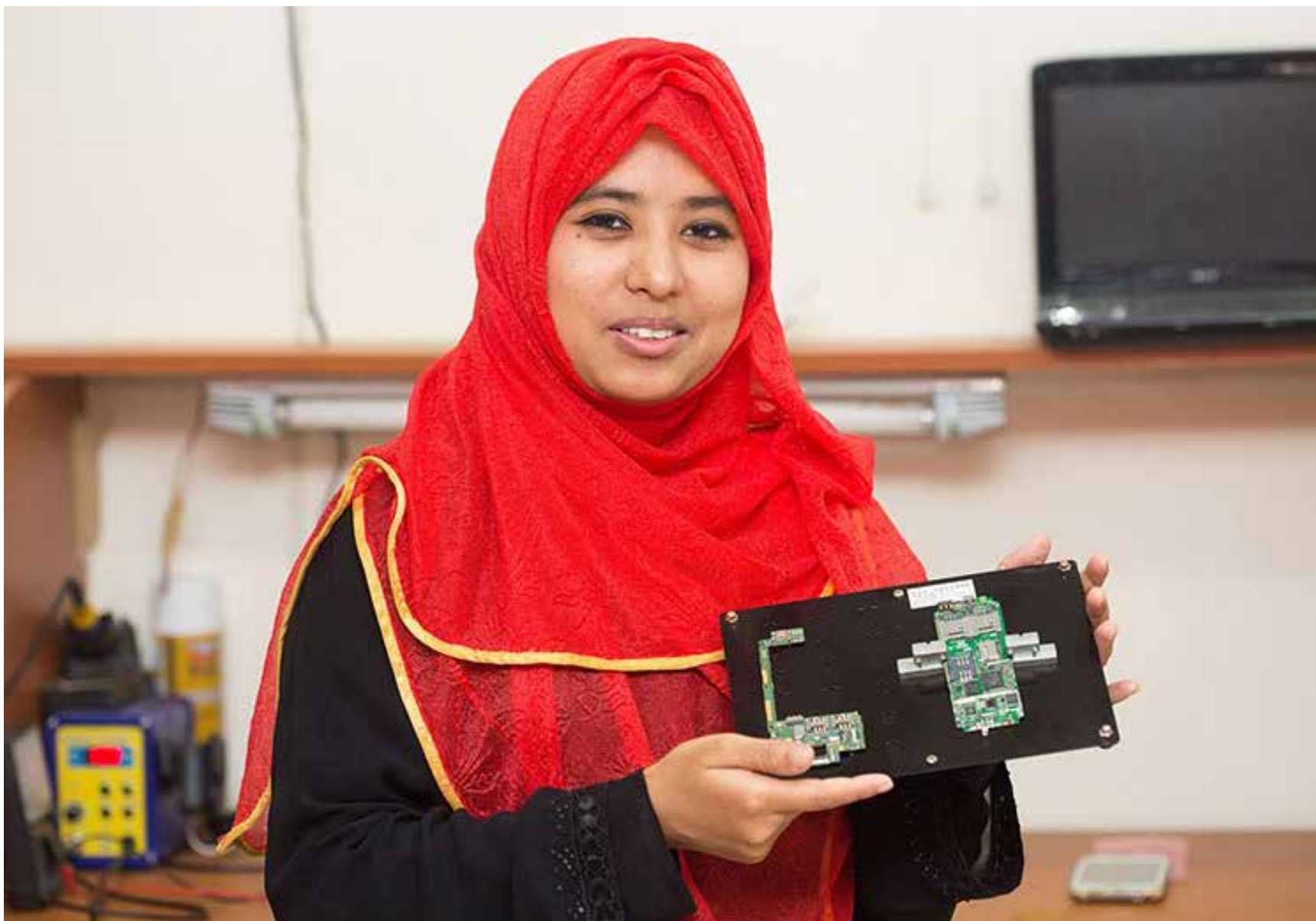
TANIA HAIDER SHOMA

Customer Care Executive
Aamra Holdings Limited
Dhaka



TECHNICAL SKILLS MATTER!

Tania Haidar Shoma completed her diploma from Rajshahi Polytechnic. Later she completed a short course on electronics from Rajshahi Technical Training Center. The stipend that she received from STEP helped her continue with her training, and prepared herself for the competitive job market. Tania is now working as a customer care executive at a renowned private firm in Dhaka. Drawing from her experience, she strongly feels about technical education and advocates for it. She is planning to continue her higher studies and enroll herself into a bachelor degree program.







MD. ABU TAHER

Mechanic In-charge
Lumbini Limited
Bandarban



VOCATIONAL TRAINING HAS CHANGED MY LIFE

After graduating from madrasah, Md. Abu Taher realized that a vocational training could help him earn an employment faster and ensure a promising career. He attended a six-month long short course on garments machine repairing from Bandarban Technical Training Institute (BTTI), a STEP beneficiary institution, in 2014. He later got a job in a garment factory in Bandarban and now working as a mechanic in-charge at Lumbini Limited, a private company. Taher believes that the short course has immensely helped him to develop his technical skills and made him the man he is now.



MST. JANNATUL KOBRA SHAMA

Director, IT Care

Rajshahi



TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAN CONTRIBUTE TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Information technology has become the other name of life for Janatul Shama now. Shama, a STEP stipend beneficiary, graduated in computer technology from Rajshahi Mohila Polytechnic in 2015. Today, she is a director of a firm – ‘IT Care’. As a concerned citizen and an active member of a social organization, she participates in many humanitarian endeavors. Shama believes that technical education is a key to women’s empowerment in Bangladesh.







JHARNA AKTHER

Junior Instructor
Aminship Trade
Minal Computer Training Academy
Thakurgaon



AN EDUCATION THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Jharna Akhter and her family were stuck in a land dispute for long and struggling to defend their rights.

In 2016, Jharna came across a short course on Aminship Trade (land survey) at Minal Computer Training Academy. During her training, she gained insights on property rights which helped her resolving the land dispute her family was facing. Immediately after completing the course, she joined as an assistant trainer with the same institution. She takes immense pride in her skills and the opportunities that have opened up.









MD. MOINUDDIN

Proprietor

Riyad Engineering Workshop

Bandarban

Chittagong





I ASSURE MY EMPLOYEES SAFETY FIRST

Md. Moinuddin knows any technical work demands sound knowledge on a number of things. This is why he chose to receive technical training on automobile services. He mastered the automobile servicing at the Bandarban Technical Training Centre with a scholarship from STEP. Now, he owns an automobile service workshop. He enjoys sharing his knowledge and expertise with his employees. Safety is his priority and he provides a risk free work space for his employees.





LOPA ROY

Executive, Tender Section,
Corporate Sales
Global Brand Private Limited
Dhaka

MORE WOMEN

SHOULD CHOOSE TECHNICAL EDUCATION

After finishing high school, Lopa Roy chose technical education. She was aware of the better employment opportunities for diploma graduates. Her family fully supported her decision. She completed her diploma engineering degree on environmental technology from Khulna Mohila Polytechnic. During her studies, she received stipend from STEP. She believes, the financial aid that STEP offers is particularly encouraging for students from lower and middle income families. She thinks, more women should choose TVET, as technical skills are highly regarded in a competitive job market. Her competence and dedication at work were able to change the popular perception that TVET graduates are 'low performers.' She now proudly works hand-in-hand with engineering university graduates.







SHEEMA AKTHER

Freelance Tailor and Cleaning Associate
at Bandhu Welfare Society
Chittagong

I NEVER GAVE UP ON LIFE



As a transgender, life has never been easy for Sheema Akhter. The social stigma and obstacles she has faced made every step of life difficult, but she never gave up. She was determined to create an identity for her own community in the society. She completed a short course on tailoring with STEP and started working independently as a tailor. She also works part-time as a cleaning associate at Bondhu Welfare Society in their regional office. Apart from her daily jobs, she takes great pleasure in teaching people how to sew. She is working towards a society in which people regardless of their identity will have equal access to skill training and other life opportunities. Now, her dream is to open a large showroom to sell clothing she has designed.







MD. ABU JAFAR MIAJI

Mechanical Engineer

Ship Fitting Shop

BN Dockyard, Bangladesh Navy

Chittagong



I DREAM OF BECOMING A HIGH RANKED OFFICER IN BANGLADESH NAVY

Md. Abu Jafar Miaji, as the eldest son of the family sacrificed his education to support the family. In a desperate time, when he was looking for jobs, he came across a newspaper advertisement of a six-month long short course on plumbing and pipefitting. STEP offered the course free of cost. Now, he works as a mechanical engineer at the BN Dockyard of Bangladesh Navy. He is also the sole bread earner of his family. He did not want his brothers' education to suffer, so he ensured they remain in schools. When he found no hope elsewhere, STEP and Bangladesh Navy gave Miaji the opportunity to enter into this prestigious profession.







MST. MAHMUDA AKTHER MAYA

Driver

Kazi Farms Atrai Poultry Limited

Panchagarh





MY CHOICE OF EDUCATION ASTONISHED MANY PEOPLE

Maya considers learning about STEP came to her as a miracle in life. She learnt about the project through an announcement at a nearby market. Out of curiosity, she collected a leaflet and came across the courses offered at Minal Computer Training Academy in Thakurgaon. She believes, that the year 2014 changed her life for good. In this year, she took admission in a short course on driving and auto mechanics. Her choice of subject may have surprised many since female participation in courses like auto mechanics is not very common. But Maya, a daughter of a freedom fighter, believes that courage runs in her blood. She is currently working as a driver and takes pride in the fact that she has no record of accident in her career.



MAHMUDA SIDDIKA

Proprietor

Computer Gallery

Rajshahi



IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO SOMETHING IN LIFE FOR YOURSELF

Mahmuda chose TVET to become financially independent and to be able to create employment opportunities for others. In 2012, she graduated in computer engineering from Rajshahi Mohila Polytechnic Institute. Now she works on computer as a freelancer. She is also a volunteer programmer at Kakan Bohumukhi Unnayan Shongstha. Mahmuda says that the diploma degree changed her life and allowed her to spread her wing far and wide.







M. ROBIUL ISLAM

Instructor

Mobile Phone Servicing

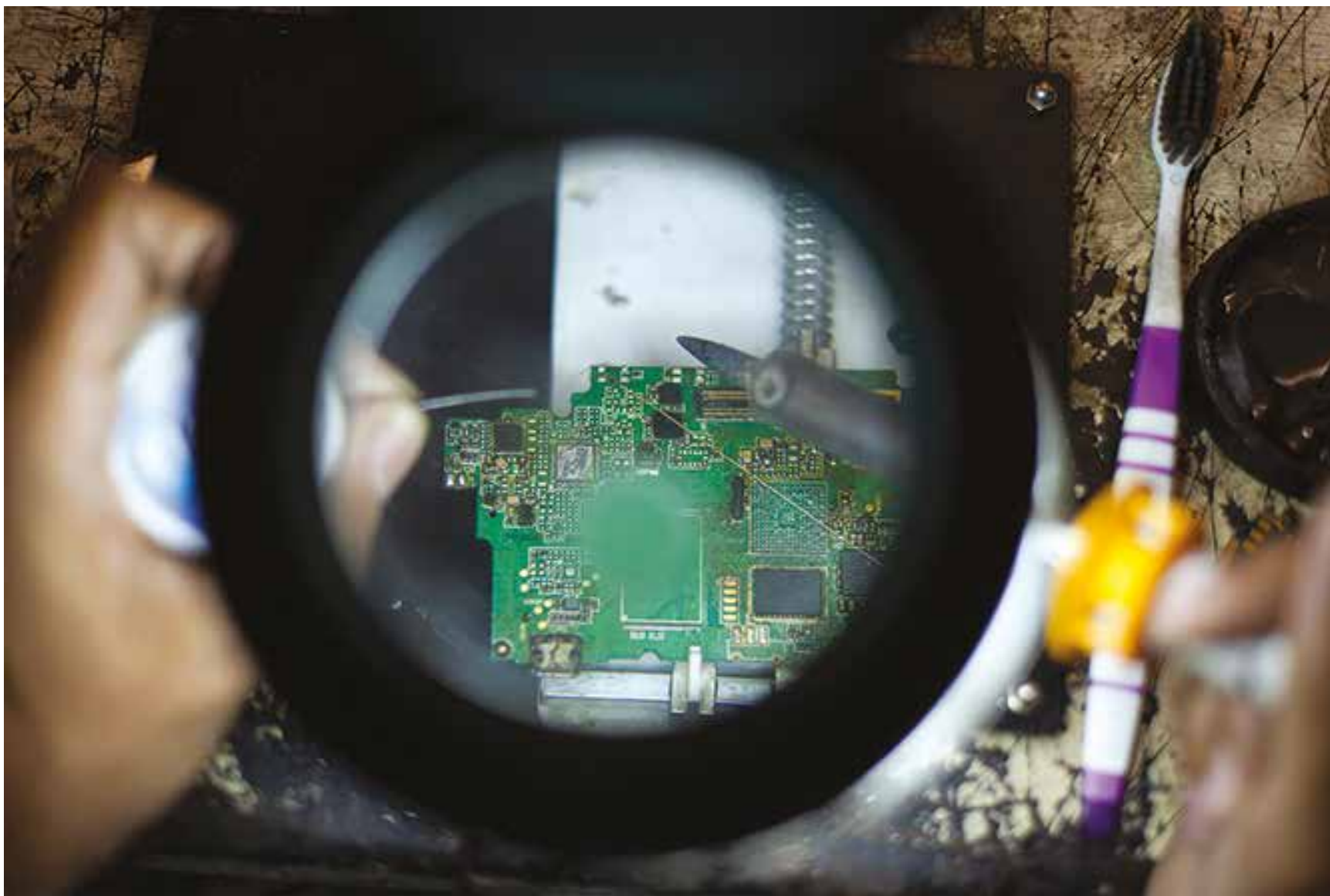
Ahsania Mission Sayed Saadat Ali Memorial

Education and Vocational Training Centre



TECHNICAL TRAINING IS EMPOWERING

In 2014, Robiul Islam completed a six-month course on mobile servicing and joined as an instructor at the Ahsania Mission Sayed Saadat Ali Memorial Education and Vocational Training Centre. There was a time when Robiul had no other option but to survive on tutoring. The newly acquired skill helped him to secure a job with regular earnings. He now inspires his students to enroll into technical training programs so they too can go a long way.







MORSHEDA BEGUM MOHSENA

Proprietor

Morsheda Tailors

Chittagong



NOW, I DARE TO DREAM BIG

Morsheda was a garment worker when she first heard about the training opportunities offered by STEP from a colleague at the garments factory. To learn more, she contacted the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and later decided to take a short training on tailoring. Now, Morsheda is successfully running her own tailor shop and supporting her family. A mother of a school-going son, she dreams of a better future for her son. Her life today is a testament to how a simple training can make a big difference in life. She feels indebted to STEP.





MST. SHAMMI AKTHER

Trainer

Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS)

Human Resource Development and Training Domain

Bogra



I AM A FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT WOMAN NOW

Shammi Akhter was born in poverty. When she learned about the STEP stipend for underprivileged students, she was excited, and enrolled in a diploma program in electrical engineering at the TMSS Technical Training Institute (TTI). Immediately after the graduation, she became a trainer at Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS), Bogra. With the right kind of education, life in poverty quickly became a story from the past for her.







MD. ABU SAYEED

Junior Instructor

Food Technology

Thakurgaon Polytechnic Institute

Thakurgaon

THE JOURNEY FROM A STUDENT TO A TEACHER WAS AMAZING

Md. Abu Sayeed went to a polytechnic institute for a technical and hands-on training. He secured second position in the country in his final diploma examination. Excelling in this technical field has boosted his confidence. Today, Md. Abu Sayeed is working for STEP as a junior instructor. He cannot imagine his journey from an ordinary student to a high achiever instructor without the support of STEP. Abu Sayeed is also a district level swimming champion.







SHARMIN AKTHER SHIKHA

Assistant Manager

Rankstel

Dhaka



I AM MY FATHER'S SON

It was Shikha's mother and grandmother who encouraged her to enroll in diploma engineering degree at the Bangladesh Information Technology (BIT). In the beginning of her career, Shikha felt neglected by many of her male colleagues for being a 'female diploma engineer'. At times, her boss demoralized and undermined her capabilities. However, Shikha never lost confidence and proved herself at work. Her persistence not only changed the dominant perception of female employees but also created a positive image on TVET. She was soon promoted to an assistant manager position. Along with her work, she is also pursuing a B.SC. degree. As a professional, she wants to reclaim the spaces conventionally occupied by men. She feels, she is her father's son.







PRIYANKA CHAK

Supervisor
Nissan Electronics
Dhaka

WOMEN ARE NO LONGER A BURDEN TO THE FAMILIES



Priyanka Chak's father strongly believes in women empowerment. He has always encouraged her daughter to be independent. With encouragement from her family, Priyanka enrolled herself in a diploma course on process control technology at Dhaka Mohila Polytechnic. Later, she also completed a short course on consumer electronics from Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Mohila Technical Training Centre. The STEP stipend supported her while she gained these practical trainings in Dhaka – miles away from her home in Bandarban. Priyanka is now an independent woman working for a major electronics showroom workshop in Dhaka City. She is delighted to be able to financially contributing to her family. She feels accomplished to have fulfilled her father's dream.







MARCEL

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সিদ্ধান্ত, প্রতিষ্ঠানগত এবং আন্তর্জাতিক শিল্পে ব্যবহৃত হয়।

MD. MAHDUNNABI BIPLOB

Managing Director

Kakon Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

Bogra

TECHNICAL EDUCATION ENSURES CAREER DEVELOPMENT



An entrepreneur at heart, Biplob always dreamt to have his own firm. He knew, to have a successful career and create opportunities for others he need to have his own business. There was no stopping once he had completed a three-month short course on refrigeration and air conditioning from Bogra Polytechnic Institute. Starting with a meagre TK 7,000 as business capital. Today his firm's capital has grown to more than Tk 4 crores. His firm has around 50 employees. Using his technical skills, Biplob invented a D/C Ventilation system for Grameenphone – a leading telecom in Bangladesh. His invention helps to reduce electricity consumption. He has also discovered a system that signals flooding in advance so people particularly in the rural areas could be warned and prepared.







SOMA RANI SARKAR

Junior Instructor

Naogaon Polytechnic Institute

Nagaon



THERE IS NO SHORTCUT TO SUCCESS!

You can see a sparkle of confidence in her eyes when she says, I will not remain unemployed even for a day. In 2009, Soma Rani Sarkar completed a diploma in architecture and interior designing from Rajshahi Mohila Polytechnic Institute. Since then, she never looked back. Immediately after completing her diploma, she joined her alma mater as a junior instructor. Now as a faculty, Soma realizes the contribution of STEP in her life. She speaks of the importance of job fairs and skills competitions arranged by STEP. She also acknowledges STEP's contribution in meeting the demand of teachers and instructors in polytechnic institutes in Bangladesh. As a teacher, Shoma also sees the importance of teacher training provided by STEP.







SAMSUN NAHAR

Community Healthcare Provider (CHCP)
Upazila Health Office
Thakurgaon



IF A MAN CAN DO IT, I CAN DO IT TOO

Samsun Nahar came from a conservative family. It was unthinkable for her family to even imagine their daughter driving a car in the streets. It was very difficult for Samsun to convince her family to allow her enroll in a short course on driving at Minal Technical Training Institute. She never took no for an answer and aspired to be financially independent. In spite of social obstacles and criticism from her family, she successfully completed the course. She is a strong voice against gender stereotyping of professions. Samsun is now a confident staff of Upazila Health Office.







MD. SAMIDUL ISLAM

ME 2

Bangladesh Navy

BN Dockyard, Bangladesh Navy

Chittagong

THIS UNIFORM WAS MY DREAM, NOW IT IS MY IDENTITY



Md. Samidul Islam never thought a short course of only six months would bring such radical change in his life. After completing higher secondary school, Samidul enrolled in a short course on diesel mechanics at the Bangladesh Navy Dockyard Technical Institute. Soon after Samidul completed the training, he began working at the Dockyard. His newly acquired skills and the new job built his confidence. He felt that he finally found an identity. He now plans to take advanced trainings and become a Bangladesh Navy officer. He thanks STEP for providing him the opportunity to serve the country through Bangladesh Navy.







SALMA FERDOUSI

Instructor

Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Dhaka

MY VISITING CARD IS NOW MY IDENTITY



Salma Ferdousi, a post graduate was unemployed for a long time. Frustrated at her situation, she had almost accepted her life as a financially dependent housewife. Then, she learned about a short course on make-up art offered through STEP. She still vividly remembers the moment she entered the gate of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Like a caged bird, she too stood for a few seconds in front of the open door. Many people discouraged her. They remarked, for someone with her credentials, the training is not respectable enough. Salma strongly stood by her decision and completed the course. She excelled in her training and the same institution hired her as an instructor. A respectable trainer of a reputed organization in Dhaka and a beloved teacher for many students, her work is now highly regarded by those who discouraged her in the first place. In future, she plans to open her own beauty parlor.



কাজনিয়ারি



প্রোঃ মোঃ গোলাম রস্বানী ০১৭
মোঃ আসিফ আলী





MD. GOLAM RUBBANI

Proprietor

Bondhu Engineering Workshop

Mahasthangarh

TODAY I AM A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR

Rubbani, since childhood was obsessed with mechanical know-how of things. Growing up, he decided to have a career in technical field. In 2016, he completed a short course on arc welding from Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS). Today, he is a proud owner of a workshop at Mahasthangarh. His dream is to expand his workshop to create more employment opportunities. He inspires his younger brothers and fellow friends to enroll into skill training courses for a brighter future.







RATAN CHANDRA BURMAN

Instructor

Driving cum Auto Mechanics

Minal Technical Training Institute

Panchagarh

TECHNICAL SKILLS HAS A HIGH DEMAND IN THE JOB MARKET



Ratan Chandra Burman never thought how radically a six-month course in driving and auto mechanics could change his life. He was a scholarship-holder from STEP and completed the course from the Minal Computer Training Academy in 2016. Now he is a successful instructor in the same institution. His students are working across the country with different organizations. Technical skills are valuable for the job market, therefore, he advises his friends to take technical training.



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