

Earlier in 2017, The Sreepur Village began a 'Candle Making' training programme for the mothers, to help empower them as entrepreneurs. A small business idea, such as this, helps the mothers to support their families as they can make candles in their free time and earn an additional income, a driving force that never existed before.

This is the story of Rubina, a mother who left The Sreepur Village in 2017, after completing her three-year stay with us. She joined us in 2014 with her two sons and daughter.



Rubina told us, "In a word, I was helpless before going to The Sreepur Village but after leaving there, and with the continued financial support of the village, I built my own house and started to rear livestock. Actually; I bought a bull which takes some time to earn money.

However, there was no option to stay lazy and because of The Sreepur Village, I was able to get trained in candle making and marketing. As part of my reintegration plan, I was given a candle making machine as one of my livelihood tools. It was only a few days, after coming home, that I started to make my own candles and sell them in the local market.

In Bangladesh, people use candles if they don't have any electricity – which accounts for hundreds and hundreds of families. Also, a great number of people light candles in the religious place in the evening and these are mainly my customers. Among the different training programmes offered at The Sreepur Village, candle making, for me, was an additional skill and it was only at the last minute that I decided to take it as a basic earning source. I am glad I did as now, during the night and at any given free moment, I make candles and wander into different stores and sell them. It has allowed me to earn a livelihood for my children, and I thank The Sreepur Village from the bottom of my heart for giving me such an opportunity."



In 2017, and thanks to the support of our donors, The Sreepur Village trained 14 mothers and gave candle making machines to nine mothers as a livelihood tool. In 2018, with donations we were able to provide training to seven mothers and now in 2019, with the launch of 'Sreepur', a luxury candle being created by Rachel Vosper to mark the 30th anniversary of The Sreepur Village, we hope to be able to empower many, many more women so that, like Rubina, they can independently provide security for their families and look forward to a life without any poverty or fear.

