

## CHAPAINAWABGANJ

# Lakshmipur Community Clinic Reconnects with the People



Lakshmipur Community Clinic now serves community people

The Lakshmipur Community Clinic in Chapainawabganj's center shines as a vital healthcare hub that now serves the healthcare needs of many thousand people. The healthcare facility which previously served few people now treats monthly between 700 to 800 patients as its service quality improves and patient trust rises.

The community clinic could not provide services as there is a numerous external disturbances including a lack of a boundary wall which creates a scope for people to let their animals stray at the clinic's area. The problem is arisen as the clinic has no legal papers of the land due to not handing over the papers by the owners and the problem has been facing over the years.

Amidst the situation, the District Health Rights Forum conducts several meeting with the community group, previous landowners and local government leaders including chairman and members to create pressure on the previous owners for handing over the papers.

Due to repeated meetings and pressures by the HRF with the community leaders, the owners have agreed to hand over the papers to the clinic authority. The progress is still going on but as the there is a progress, people have shown interests to go to the clinic for their healthcare and reduce letting stray of their animals.

Besides, District Health Rights Forum arranges different campaign activities along with Lakshmipur Community Clinic to make people aware of their health rights. As part of the mass campaign, they arrange rallies, mass gatherings, local-level planning meetings, round table meetings, and seminars. Therefore, the Clinic is contributing a lot to the service of the people of this area, including maternity health care, child and adolescent health care and general health care.

Due to the joint efforts of the Health Rights Forum and the Community Clinic, people are now turning to the

hospital through repeated meetings and workshops which are making the people aware. Every month, 700 to 800 patients come here for treatment, earlier the number was very negligible, and it can be said that this is a very significant change. Earlier, people did not want to come to the community clinic, because they did not understand their right to health protection and health services.

MST. Masuma Khatun, Community Health Care Provider (CHCP) has been working at Lakshmipur Community Clinic since 2017, during this time of her work, she has witnessed how a community clinic can take a community towards better Healthcare.

*“We provide primary care to patients here, such as fever, cold, cough, diarrhea, and various diseases. Health care is provided to children, adolescents, and pregnant mothers. Pregnant women are checked up four times during their entire pregnancy and necessary vaccinations are given to children and pregnant women ,”* she said.

*“The HRF supports various achievements but current obstacles still exist. The lack of a boundary wall concerns Masuma because it exposes the clinic to stray animals and external disturbances and most importantly, the legal papers of the land of the Clinic have not been handed over to the authorities. The staff members bring these issues to authorities during Health Forum meetings to push for essential facility advancements,”* she said.

The Clinic beneficiary Badar who is 70 years old, continues to benefit from care at the facility while dedicating appreciation for its services. The medical facility demonstrates its value through many successful patient treatments which indicates that outreach programs play a vital role in building public healthcare awareness and behavior.

Kamrun Nahar (43), FWV has been working as a family planning inspector, providing support to Lakshmipur Community Clinic, Chapainawabganj for 12 years,

going door to door to raise awareness among people, explaining that they can get better treatment by going there instead of taking treatment at home in a rural way, and how risky it is for pregnant mothers to deliver at home.

*"We tell them to come to the clinic from four months pregnancy, then we give calcium, vitamins, iron tablets and necessary vaccinations to pregnant mothers."*

There is a registration system from the Community Clinic. We go door to door and collect the names, voter IDs, ages, and phone numbers of pregnant women. Later, when a patient comes, service can be provided quickly, and it is convenient to get a card.

HRF conducts blood grouping of pregnant mothers at different times on their initiative. This makes it possible to manage blood quickly if a patient needs to undergo a cesarean section.

*"Three staff members comprising a Health Assistant and CHCP together with a Family Welfare Visitor enable the clinic's organized healthcare provision. Family planning services are accessible two times weekly and the Health Assistant performs three days of service along with the continuous presence of the CHCP. The services provided by this team enable couples to receive family planning information and gain access to oral contraceptives along with condoms and implants as well as sterilization methods for reproductive health knowledge," she said.*

The Lakshmipur Community Clinic together with the Health Rights Forum successfully enhanced healthcare access through their combined health advocacy events. Through ongoing support for improved infrastructure and service growth, they assure quality healthcare access throughout the Chapainawabganj community making the Clinic an essential medical resource.