



**"I am feeling very happy.
I have been able to stand
on my own feet."
Rozina Khatun,
Saidpur Enterprises, Bangladesh**

Photo: GMB Akash

A higher education

Sewing Traidcraft bags at home makes it easier for Rozina to take care of her five-year-old son, Subho. Through a monthly saving scheme at work she has also been able to install electricity in her home.

"My son was not reading in the evening because of the light, now he is reading at home," said Rozina, who has been working for Saidpur Enterprises for more than four years.

"I have been working because of him. I want to give him a higher education."

Rozina used to make incense sticks at home to earn money. "This was not a regular job or good enough income. Here I am getting regular work."



Photo: GMB Akash

Collecting the materials

Twice a week Rozina takes the completed products to Saidpur Enterprises and collects threads and materials to use at home. The parcel she is carrying holds enough to complete five bags. While there, she meets the other women and learns about new orders and designs.

Like other workers, Rozina receives a share of the profit at the end of the year. Part of this is given as a dividend which they can use as they choose. The second part is kept for their retirement fund, but they can have up to half for marriage, buying land or higher education, or to meet medical expenses.

At the 2011 AGM, each woman received a mobile phone, to keep in touch with each other and Saidpur Enterprises, an umbrella and food to share with their family.



This is the best

Rashida works at Eastern Screen Printers, part of Saidpur Enterprises, printing fabric used to make Traidcraft bags. Her husband does not have a regular job so her earnings are very important. The money she earns has helped her family move to a more spacious home.

“The other was only a small room. I gave the money to my mother to get the house. This is the best.”

Rashida

Fighting poverty through trade

Traidcraft was set up not just to sell fairly traded products but to help producers in other practical ways. As well as sending designers and support staff to work with Saidpur Enterprises, Traidcraft organises Meet the People Tours to Bangladesh, so the women in Saidpur can meet the Traidcraft supporters who buy their products. Why not book a place on the next tour? www.traidcraft-tours.com

