

# Women's struggles to rise above discrimination



A common theme in the lives of women, particularly those who come from rural areas or the lower end of the economy is that they are never groomed for success. Society and even their parents do not have the same aspirations for them as they do for men. It is only under dire and unfortunate circumstances that they are forced to go and make a living.

Women's struggles have been very well documented throughout the years but despite such extensive research, we uncover new facets and nuances about them every time we take a deeper look into their lives. Despite all odds, some of these women rose above all the torment and broke free of their shackles but if only they had received the proper support and encouragement from the get-go, maybe their stories would have been different.

Take Salma Akhtar for example who always aspired to be a doctor but was married off when she was in grade six and gave birth to her first child when she was in grade eight. A few years into the marriage, her husband suffered from a stroke which rendered him

unable to work anymore. Without any qualifications or training, Salma found herself taking on all of the financial burdens of the family.

Maya Chiran and Shelly Akhter also found themselves in similar circumstances. The former had to join work because her family could not bear the cost of her education while the latter was left by her husband for another woman and she had no one to turn to.

"I had to work at people's homes to feed my children. I decided to come to Dhaka with no work experience.

