



The Alliance BCC Program: Bangladesh Campaign

Short Film Summary

Duration: 45 minutes

Video Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJsyTsZSV5g>

The story revolves around a well-off family in a village. The mother is the authority of the family. Her elder son Anwar lives abroad. The mother along with the elder son's wife Mita, Mita's two children Mitu and Mintu, younger son Bablu, Bablu's wife Ruby, Ruby's four or five-year old daughter Rumpa and the midwife Kashiburi (coughing lady) lives in a house. The family depends on the money sent home by Anwar. So Anwar's wife and children get special attention of the mother. Ruby can't tolerate this discrimination. Bablu wastes money, sent by Anwar, on his luxury habits. Bablu takes pleasure in presenting himself as a modern man before all. Dressing like a dandy and using a CNG-run transport instead of a rickshaw have turned into his habits. The mother often tries to discipline him as she keeps the books of the family. But all her efforts go in vain. Moreover, Bablu wastes the money of the last installment for a piece of land that his mother wants to buy with money sent by Anwar. So he could not bring to his mother the deed of the purchased land. Josna is another girl in the village. She knows almost every piece of information of Bablu's family. She wants to help Bablu on various pretexts, but Bablu refuses. Amidst such events, Anwar comes home. Bablu becomes desperate to arrange the money he wasted.

After coming home, Anwar notices that nobody wants to stay in the kitchen for long. The kitchen is filled with smoke and soot. Besides, Rumpa's eyes burn after evening; she also doesn't see clearly. On the other hand, the mother also suffers from respiratory problems; it is needless to say that Kashiburi coughs all the time. One day Anwar goes to the local market and sees that his old friend has started a business of Modern Cookstoves. Windmill marked modern cookstoves. This cookstove produces less smoke and soot. Hence, the health of the family members is not affected and the kitchen remains neat and clean too. Anwar thinks that such a cookstove can help keep the family healthy and Modern cookstoves, moreover, are easily portable. He brings a modern cookstove home. The use of the modern cookstove changes the surroundings of the house: it's not needed to take Kashiburi to hospital almost daily, the eyes of the children burn less and they can concentrate on their studies, and the mother's health stays fine. Moreover, Bablu's wife Rumpa also starts to help with cooking as the surroundings of the kitchen improves. The mother now realizes something and advises Bablu, "only external look can't make one modern, rather someone like Anwar who carries out all the responsibilities of the family and knows everything even about the kitchen is truly a modern man. Bablu changes himself too after this incidence. He starts to spend time with the family members rather than spending time with people outside.