"When I was 10 years old, my family realized that I am a Hijra. Suddenly my surroundings got changed, my relatives started to neglect me and my neighbors were bulling me. Hearing the slangs from the people, my family had no choice but send me in the Hijra Community. After a time being, I started collecting money from the others for livelihood which was very painful & dishonorable for me. Every day was a day of struggle and hardship. I wanted to dignify my living, always looking for an honorable job as a human being. One day I came to know that Bandhu Social Welfare Society is collaborating with Denim Expert Ltd, for providing jobs to the gender diverse population. I saw the light that can fulfil my dreams. Hence, I got a job in Denim expert Limited and my life has changed. Now I can see respects in the eyes of my family members and neighbours. My heartiest gratitude for Bandhu and Denim Expert Ltd for changing my life path."

- Aduri Hijra

At present, five Hijra community members are working in Denim Expert Ltd with the support of Bandhu and USAID. And the story is more or less same for this five Hijra person. They were always deprived because of their gender identity. Even they couldn’t find any job to maintain their livelihood. They all were leading a life situated with Hijra culture but now they’re the torch bearer for this community to live with dignity.
Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) has been working since 1996 for the well-being of gender diverse population in Bangladesh through economic livelihood, health care and legal support. As a part of access to social entitlements and social protection for gender diverse population, Bandhu were exploring possibilities to development partnership with Denim Expert Ltd.

Beginning of the process, Bandhu organized an orientation session with Denim Expert Ltd. on 3rd July, 2018. In continuation, on 21 July a team visited Denim Expert Ltd and participated in a meeting with Denim high officials along with their Managing Director, Mr. Mostafiz Ahmed.

Finally, the partnership begins with recruitment of two Hijra community members named Shima Akhter and Dilruba Akhter during the month of September, 2018. With the satisfactory performance of them, Denim then recruited another three Hijra members as their staff.

This initiative creates a new window in terms of better livelihood opportunity for gender diverse population. This example is creating awareness among the other community members that they also should try to lead a respectful life instead of begging. Bandhu is continuously working for creating job probation for the gender diverse community. Now it’s our time to accept them as a normal human being and contribute for creating job sectors for them.