

SOHAY

**HALF YEARLY REPORT
JULY TO DECEMBER 2005**



Audience of REFLECT programme inauguration meeting

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OVERVIEW

This is the second semester programme progress report of SOHAY for year 2005. During the time (July to December 2005) SOHAY extends its programme activities, widen its stakeholders starts to work with women community members in the slums, identified more children for its pre-primary and primary school students backup education support programme.

SOHAY works with poor slum dwellers trying to bring confidence on them change their understanding and attitude that they can do can bring change in their socio-economic life. They can grab the social opportunities available if they want to it only require individual and family initiatives. SOHAY wants to mobilize poor people to use the socially opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge.

SOHAY is working in 5 slums in Dhakkin Khan Union. It use family approach target all family members in a household. At present it is working with 125 women and 85 children on these slums. The purpose is to provide basic literacy education to the women members, enhance their knowledge and skill on basic social issues which will assist their family to be in good health ensure harmony in the society and backup education support to the pre-primary and primary school students to enhance their human skills and make them as asset in the society.

The biggest step during the time is its partnership with Action Aid one of the biggest international non-government organizations operating in Bangladesh. The partnership is on REFLECT programme implementation highly appreciated method agreed in the world to provide basic literacy education to the people.

SOHAY hired 4 staffs during the period now total staff strength of SOHAY is 8, 6 females and 2 males. SOHAY provides basic training to its staff on programme planning; programme implementation, method of conducting sessions at community level and identifying programme interventions. Enhance staff capacity to ensure programmes are properly delivered at the community to ensure good impact there.

SOHAY finalized financial manual changed financial management system from petty cash method to double entry system starts bulk payment and staff salary through checks.

SOHAY is half way thru finalizing personnel manual. Issued appointments letters to its staff including the newly recruit. The personnel manual contains employees' benefits and entitlement, what a staff can do and cannot do while working in SOHAY. Entitlements of annual leave, sick leave and maternity leave etc.

SOHAY has negotiated with the landlord extended its office space from two rooms to 5 rooms including a small training room.

REFLECT PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

SOHAY is implementing Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques (REFLECT) programme since October 2005. Under this programme SOHAY is working with 100 women in 4 slums in Dhakkin Khan Union, providing basic education (literacy and numeracy), enhancing the understanding of the importance of immunization for children age below 5, Though this community women also discussing their day to day problem such as diarrhea, importance of education into their children life, problems they are facing into their day to day life.

SOHAY believes the society will only change if the socio-economic condition of a family and society has changed. We all know the present socio-economic situation of Bangladesh is not up to the satisfactory level; therefore, it needs continuous education programme to bring changes. Close contact and regular interaction will enhance people knowledge and understanding about human, social and economic capital in their life. SOHAY believes if individual's socio-economic condition has changed the family members condition will change as a result countries socio-economic condition will change.

SOHAY in last couple of months was trying to bring diversity in its programme, brings changes in its programme planning and implementation, targeting different categories of stakeholders (women, children and men) to enhance its programme impact in vulnerable people life.

During the reporting period SOHAY moves substantially its plan. It is now working with women and children in the community. It has started working with slum women in its REFLECT programme funded by **ActionAid**. Providing basic literacy to the women, enhance their understanding on the importance of education in family. Inspired women to speak at the discussion session problems they regularly face at their day to day life and how they can come out of it by their own initiatives. SOHAY's staff strength has increased, widened its working stakeholders and geographical areas. The programme participants have increased.

SOHAY provides basic literacy training to the community women using common method of learning letter and words; in addition under this programme SOHAY used interacting and discussion method of learning letters and words. The interacting and discussion are based on needs on their day-to-day life. It not only helps women to learn letters and words quickly rather it open opportunity for them to discuss among themselves find how they could solve problems. Under this programme opportunity came for women to share problems with others hear how other resolved when they faced similar problems in their life created harmony in the society.

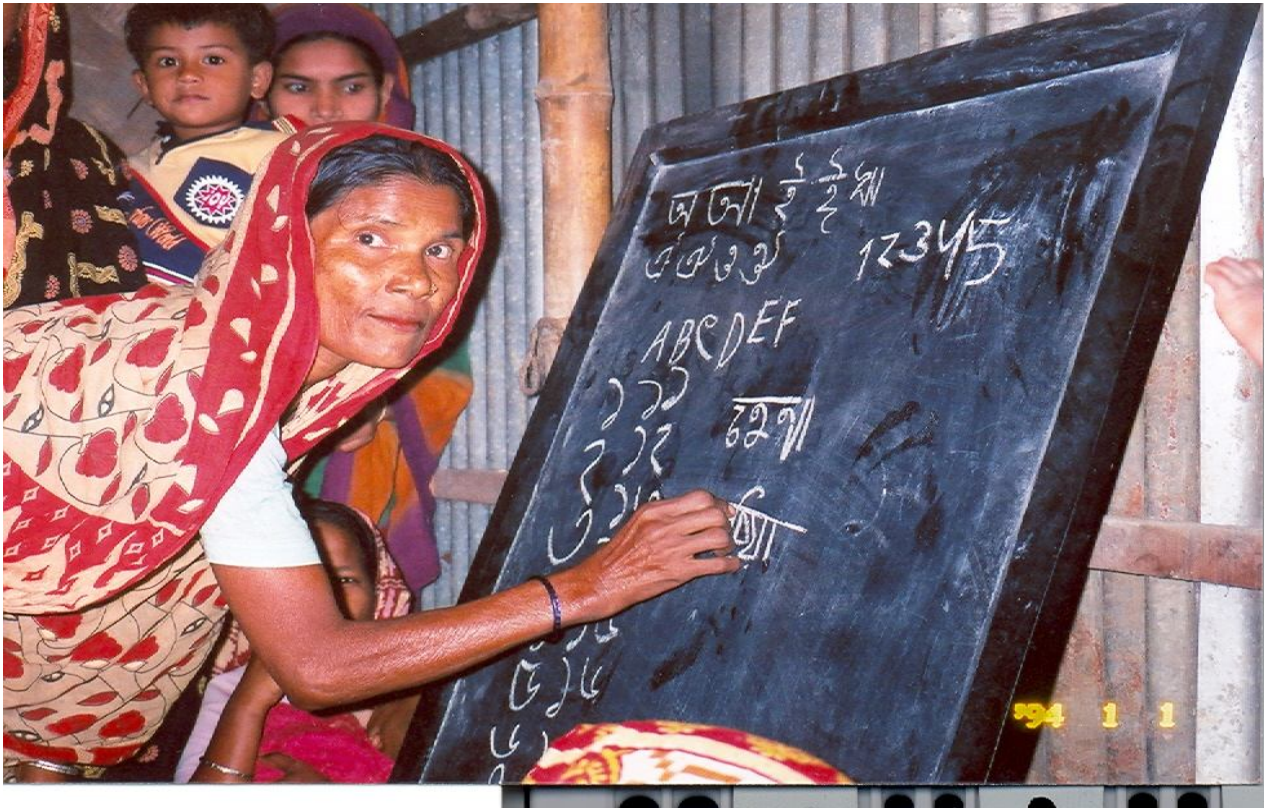
Most of the discussions were on education for their children, family health, reproductive health, water and sanitation, human and women rights and social value of women etc.

As mentioned before the partnership starts from 16 of October 2005 during the period the following specific activities completed in addition to what has mentioned before.

Staffs hire – SOHAY hired four staff to run REFLECT programme. Hired one REFLECT trainer and three REFLECT facilitators.

Group formation – SOHAY formed 4 women groups at 4 slums in Dhakkin Khan Union, each groups consists of 20 to 25 women. The groups members meet six days a week learn basic literacy and numeric education. As of today the women learned beyond expectation. The following picture shows evidence. The group members start working with SOHAY

programme since October 2005 and the picture taken on last week of December 2005. They have shown their skills that they can learn letters in two months effort. They proved if opportunities are available even at this age women can learn and demonstrate that they can do.



SOHAY participant writing word learnt under REFLECT programme funded by ActionAid.

Baseline information collection – SOHAY collected baseline information from group members before implanting the programme activities at slum level. It was very clear in the baseline information that most the women did not get any opportunity in their life to go the school for education. Married at early age engaged with household activities at the beginning of their teen age, became mother at their young age too.

Programme plan – SOHAY prepared monthly programme plan to implement REFLECT programme activities. The plan includes baseline survey, mid term monitoring and final evaluation of the programme activities. Detail month wise programme implementation plan are included in programme plan.

Staff training – The REFLECT trainer got a week long training from Action Aid staff on understanding of REFLECT programme and implementation of programme activities.

Achievement - Sohay programme intervention are based on cultural and economic perspective so easily understandable by illiterate and deprived segment of population .The intervention are focused on social context, social discrimination faced by women and children in the society. There fore, all sohay programme interventions are influential and motivational and have impact on the community.

The following are achievement of SOHAY programme activities during the time:

- Women at slums now write letters, words and own name.
- Men showed their interest to form groups at slum requested SOHAY staff to plan programme for them specifically on basic education.

BACKUP SUPPORT TO THE PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

As SOHAY use family approach to bring change in the society, the other target group of SOHAY are slums children. SOHAY assisted slum children in their education. It assists them to take admission at Government Primary School assisted them to complete their daily homework. In year 2005 SOHAY provided back up support to 60 children under backup support to pre-primary education programme and 25 children under primary education programme. As mentioned under pre-primary backup education support programme SOHAY supports 60 children this year. SOHAY provided basic education to them which they are supposed to get from family members. This is very important for them to get admission at Government school at class one.



Picture of primary school students get backup education support from SOHAY

SOHAY provides backup support to 25 children under its backup support to primary education programme. Through this SOHAY assisted the children to complete their regular homework, prepare them for school. Provides school dress and other types of assistance they need to complete their education. Out of 25 students 24 students passed successfully, 7 stood 1-10 in their final examination.

Through this programme SOHAY believes social exchanges will happen between different social classes in the society. Each group will learn how other group struggling for their livelihood. Will create opportunity to exchange information through these students in coming day when the friendship between different social classes will happen at school.

Visitors:

During the period SOHAY showed its programme to several international and national visitors.

Philippa Shimmin visited SOHAY programme



Philippa Shimmin distributing school dress to the students contributed by her

Philippa Shimmin visited SOHAY programme observed SOHAY's backup education support programme to school students. Contributed school dresses for children. The school dress assisted the children a lot to mix with the other children in the school. It reduced social class. It assisted the children a lot to continue their education without any social discrimination. The dress hides the socio-economic different of these children in the school which is very important for their moral at educational institution.

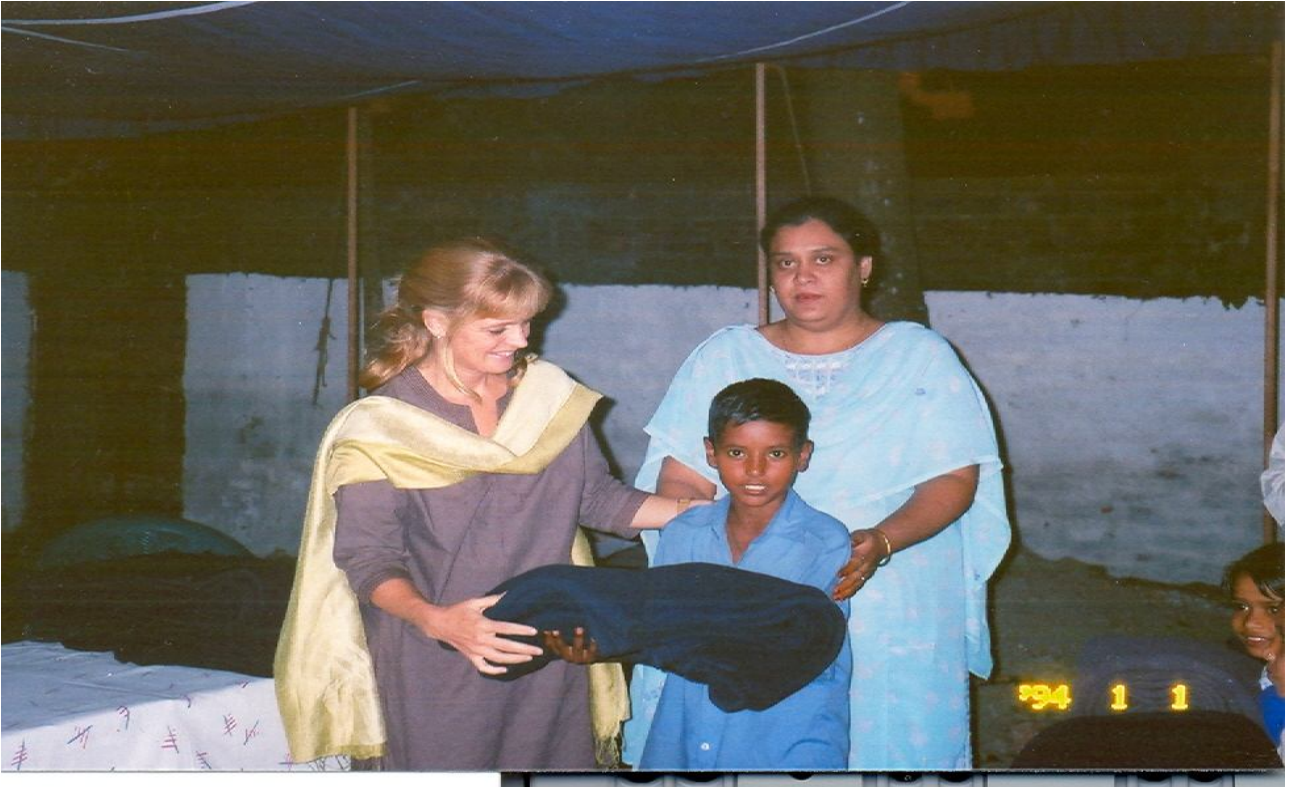
Oxfam staff visited SOHAY programme



OXFAM staff visited SOHAY women group discussing women rights

OXFAM staff Farhana Hafiz and Tahmina Rahman visited SOHAY programme at slums. Spoke with the women on gender and women rights issues. They have showed keen interest on SOHAY programme. Their visit assisted SOHAY senior staff at lot to understand the gender issues, its importance in the society and how gender programme assist women in the society. Oxfam and SOHAY staff discussed a lot how SOHAY's gender programme could be widened to stop oppression on women in the society.

Kathryn English visited SOHAY programme:



Kathryn English distributing blankets to the primary students contributed by her

Kathryn English visited SOHAY office observed its programme at slums. She contributed blankets for slum students received backup primary education support from SOHAY. She distributed blankets to the school students. These blankets helps the students a lot to keep them out of cold during their final examination time. It helps them to prepare for final examination under warm environment and had good sleep at night.



Kathryn English, Zamila Sultana and Peter Evans are with children received blankets contributed by Kathryn