

SOHAY

ANNUAL REPORT

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Children received school dress from SOHAY contributed by Dr. Peter Evans and Daniel Shimmin.

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Introduction:

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in South Asia. More than half of its total populations live below the poverty line maintain their livelihood less than a dollar a day passing days hand to mouth in measurable conditions in a tiny room in urban slums in Dhaka city. Those who live in Dhaka urban slums are the poorest of the poor they are economically vulnerable and socially unjust far from any Government support system. They are now in vicious circle have no idea how they could develop themselves through education, skill training and technical support to get out of this trap. They are trying hard knocking the doors, kicking the walls and pushing the buttons all their efforts went on vain. Searching outside assistance from family, neighbors and society when they failed to get that they gave up their efforts accept poverty as their fate and stay in there.

SOHAY is a national non-government not for profit social development and mobilization organization working in urban slum people in Dhaka city since its inception in 2002. SOHAY's programme are focused on human and social capital issues. Work with women and children to enhance their capacity through education, basic health knowledge to bring comfort in their life. Change social perspective to ensure poor people live with honor and dignity. The objectives are to ensure comfort in their future livelihood.

This year between January - June 2006 SOHAY was working with **101** children and **83** women in 3 slums in Dhakkhin Khan Union under Uttara in Dhaka city.

The children programme focused on education, personal hygiene, water and sanitation, reproductive health with adolescent girls, basic human rights and common etiquette. The women one focused on basic literacy, human rights, reproductive health, immunization of children, pregnant and lactating mother care, water and sanitation and personal hygiene.

All Programme interventions are developed in consultation with several stakeholders including recipients. It emphasizes to open participants eyes change their understanding about poverty, widening their thinking, show different ways to come out of poverty. What are the reasons of poverty? How SOHAY will support them? What actions they would have to take? SOHAY try to build their confidence that they are human like other they have similar capacity if they increase their capability through education and knowledge and acquire required skills their life would be far better in future, they will enjoy better social and economic services. Show them the difference between them and others in the society.

SOHAY's Working Areas: 3 (Four) slums in Dhakkhin Khan union.

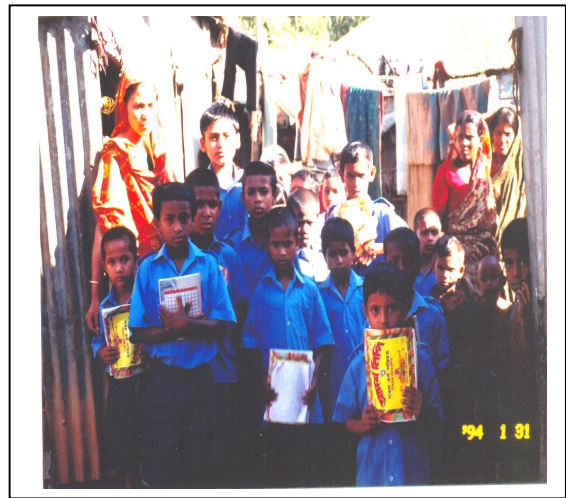
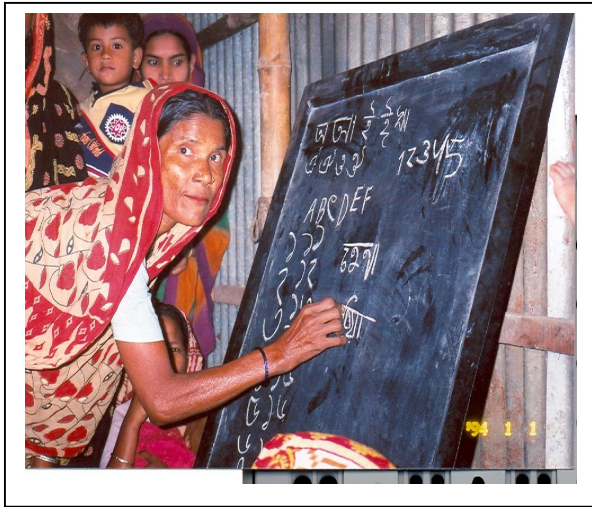
Total population SOHAY works with: 83 women and 101 children.

Activities with W O M E N

The women programme activities of SOHAY is supported by **ActionAid Bangladesh**. SOHAY used REFLECT method to enhance women knowledge and understanding on issues affects their day to day life including education, health, water and sanitation. SOHAY programme strategically emphasis to build human and social capital in its working areas to create self awareness at community level so that they themselves should think how they would change their socio-economic condition.

The following are SOHAY intervention with slum dwellers.

Basic education for community women: SOHAY provided basic education to the women teach them to read and write now all women in slums can read and write letter and words. Some of them went further can write sentences (see below picture left one).



The above picture (right) shows slum children are going to school where mothers are watching ensure children are going to school on time.

Aware community the importance of children education: SOHAY aware community women the importance of education and how it could change future of their children. Inform them that the Government school provides free education to children. Parents understood, realized and visualized the benefits of education admitted all their school aged children to School. SOHAY and school teachers support make education fun for children. The community are not lagging behind they ensure children are attending school regularly and studying at home. As a result all school aged children in SOHAY working areas are going to school. In five years time the first batch will complete their primary education. This will bring massive social change in slum life. There would be more educated children available at slum who will grab information from several sources to change their socio economic condition and livelihood.

Through these interventions SOHAY is contributing to:

PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) goal: Investing in people: education.

MDG (Millennium Development Goals) goal: Universal primary education in all countries by 2015 and demonstrated progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women by eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2015.

ON HEALTH

Immunization for Children: Through this intervention SOHAY aware community importance of immunization in their children life. It informs immunization is free given by Government to safe their children life from six deadly diseases. They realized the benefit came out of taboo. Mothers are now taking their children to satellite clinic for immunization. All children under age five in SOHAY working areas are immunized.

Care of pregnant and lactating mothers: SOHAY aware community the need to take care for pregnant women and lactating mothers. Shows types of care they should take during the time. The following are topics SOHAY covers with programme participants,

food, rest, refrain pregnant women lifting heavy stuff, visiting doctors etc. They are now aware all pregnant women gave safe delivery to their child if they follow some routine during this period. Now all pregnant women are visiting doctor during pregnancy.

Water and Sanitation: Through this intervention SOHAY provides basic hygiene education to the community such as drink clean water, wash hands before eating, serving food, after returning from toilet, cleaning bottom of children and after handling feces. Preparation home made saline preparation. It helps community last six months there were no diarrhea episode in SOHAY working areas.

Through these interventions SOHAY is contributing to:

PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) goal: Investing in people: Health.

MDG (Millennium Development Goals) goal: a reduction by two-thirds in mortality rates for infants and children under age 5 by 2015 and a reduction by three-fourths in maternal mortality by 2015.

Activities with CHILDREN

SOHAY provides basic education to pre-primary children age 4 to 6 and back up support (complete home work at home) to class one to class five children in its working slums. Children from neighboring slums are also welcome and attend the back up support programme.

The following are children support programme interventions:

SOHAY provides school dress to class one to class five children: SOHAY provides one set school dress to children study in class one to class five. School dress is important to attend school but due to poverty their parents could not buy. The dress helps them to get equal status in class hides their socio economic condition. They receive equal attention and guidance from teachers. They can make friendship with other children in class. In the longer run there would be cross social friendship which would be healthy for society. This programme is contributing building human capital at urban slums in Dhaka.





David Wood, Country Representative DFID, Yolande Wright, Livelihood Adviser DFID, Peter Evans, Governance Adviser DFID and Ali Forder, Health Adviser DFID (clock wise) are distributing school dress to children studying in Government Primary School.

Pre-Primary basic education support to children age 4-5: Under pre-primary children programme SOHAY provides basic education (numbers, letters, and poems) to 4-5 years age children to prepare them to get admission at Government school the following year. Conventionally, this support come from family e.g. parents or elders. Unfortunately their parents are illiterate could not teach them. And without this basic knowledge they can not take admission at school. The impact of the programme is **huge** for all children age 4-5 years of age to join primary school next year.

Backup education support to class one to class five children: Admission and attending class regularly is one part of education. Reading and preparing home work at home is other part and very important for proper education. Conventionally the later part comes from parents or elders in the family. Unfortunately as their parents are illiterate they are out of that support. Under backup education support programme SOHAY assist children to prepare their home work. SOHAY aware community to ensure there is education friendly environment at slums. As a result of this all children in slum admitted at primary school last year promoted to next classes this year, 9 children were on merit list. The results encouraged the parents open eyes they started to believe their children name would be on merit list if they take care. The following table shows numbers of children receiving pre-primary and back up support this year.

Through this programme SOHAY is contributing the following national and international strategic goals:

PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) goal: Investing in people: education.

MDG (Millennium Development Goals) goal: Universal primary education in all countries by 2015 and demonstrated progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women by eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2015.

OTHER PROGRAMME WITH CHILDREN:

In addition to the above SOHAY provide the following basic health and hygiene training to slum children:

Water and sanitation

SOHAY provides training to slum children on diarrhea, how children are affected, how they could prevent it, the consequences of diarrhea in their life, what they should they do if they are attacked by diarrhea.

What is saline, how to prepare it, why diarrhea affected children drink saline water, how long home made saline is usable, if they buy saline from outside how long that is for use.

As a result of that there were no diarrhea episodes in SOHAY working slums during the reporting period.

Hygiene education

SOHAY provides basic hygiene education to children including, nail cutting, using clean dress and wash mouth and teeth in morning, use sandals while use toilet.

S T A F F TRAINING:

SOHAY believes on quality programme delivery which depends on quality of staff. Therefore SOHAY organize training and refreshers for its staff regularly. The following picture shows SOHAY field staff are receiving training from REFLECT trainer.

