

SOHAY

HALF YEARLY REPORT

January to June 2007



Children in SOHAY working areas are with children visitors (Hamsi and Ramya)

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At SOHAY we work to create disciplined, self-confident, educated and skilled human resources in Bangladesh where all people will have the opportunity to realize their full potential, raise voice and ensure sustainable livelihood. At the end these are the key skills to empower people, ending injustice and come out of poverty.

Preface:

SOHAY is a national non government not for profit social development organization in Bangladesh. It works with slum dwellers in Dhaka city and the present working areas are slums in Dhakkin Khan area. The present development programme are designed to enhance slum dwellers capability to take informed decision to build families human and social capitals.

This is the January to June 2007 progress report contains programme activities it did in its working areas. SOHAY project is designed to increase the access of vulnerable and marginalized slum communities and individuals, including women and children to the avail of social services which they are entitled to receive as citizen of Bangladesh. These services are provided by the Government of Bangladesh.

SOHAY programme focuses on families, local service delivery institutions, people representatives. It enhances people vision, aware them on human and social rights encourages people using government services available for own and family members. SOHAY believes disciplined, educated, self-confident and skilled people are keys to get out of poverty circle.

The slum peoples vision are understandably short term because of their past experience and own understanding of life and livelihood. They could not see far beyond the benefit of using social services for their family members. Their understandings are still in nineteenth centuries.

SOHAY took the challenge to change it. All its programme activities embedded with local culture and practice focussing where they made mistake in the past how their present action could lead them to a brighter future. It is combined with positive negative for them to understand and see clear future. SOHAY focuses more on what they should do now for brighter future there is no time for them to waste.

SOHAY's programme modules and its delivery are so effective that people understand the information easily can take informed decision on spot what steps they should take for themselves and their family members' for brighter future.

The table provides total households 132, total children 441 and total population 697 in SOHAY working areas.

Areas	Household numbers	Total population	total children	Children 0-4	Children 5-11	Children 11+
Noapara	50	271	168	33	80	55
Noguara bari	38	216	148	42	52	54
Mia para	44	210	125	28	48	49
Total	132	697	441	103	180	158

SOHAY working areas:

SOHAY works with the slum dwellers in Dhakkin Khan Union under Dhaka city because of their special needs. It is an area where unusual degree of illiterate migrated poor people lives (around 80%), human rights are largely ignored and people are not aware of their human and social rights and therefore cannot demand them.

Due to illiteracy, ignorance, lack of confidence, voice, afraid to stand against any oppression and injustice they suffer most. After migration from village areas they enter into various opportunity and threat economy from which they cannot return to village and escape from tough livelihood. They face another problem with their children's education which is very important for development and rights. These families need encouragement and systemic guidance to empower them to stand against all forms of human rights violation.

Unfortunately, they are neither fully aware nor conscious of government services available in their areas for their benefit e.g. education, health, water and sanitation services. It is their constitutional and basic right to use those services. The parents could not see long term benefit of having an educated children. The combination of these factors leads parents to choose not to send their children to school. This situation was persisted because there was communication gap between the institutions and slum families. The distance was so big that it needs special attention and continuous support to minimize.

Slum families vision are understandable short term they think children livelihood will depend on physical labour, such as rickshaw pulling, day labour, petty hawkers, etc. They often do not consider that long term improvements and diversified income sources of their children can bring difference in their life if parents take informed decision.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Education rights for all children:

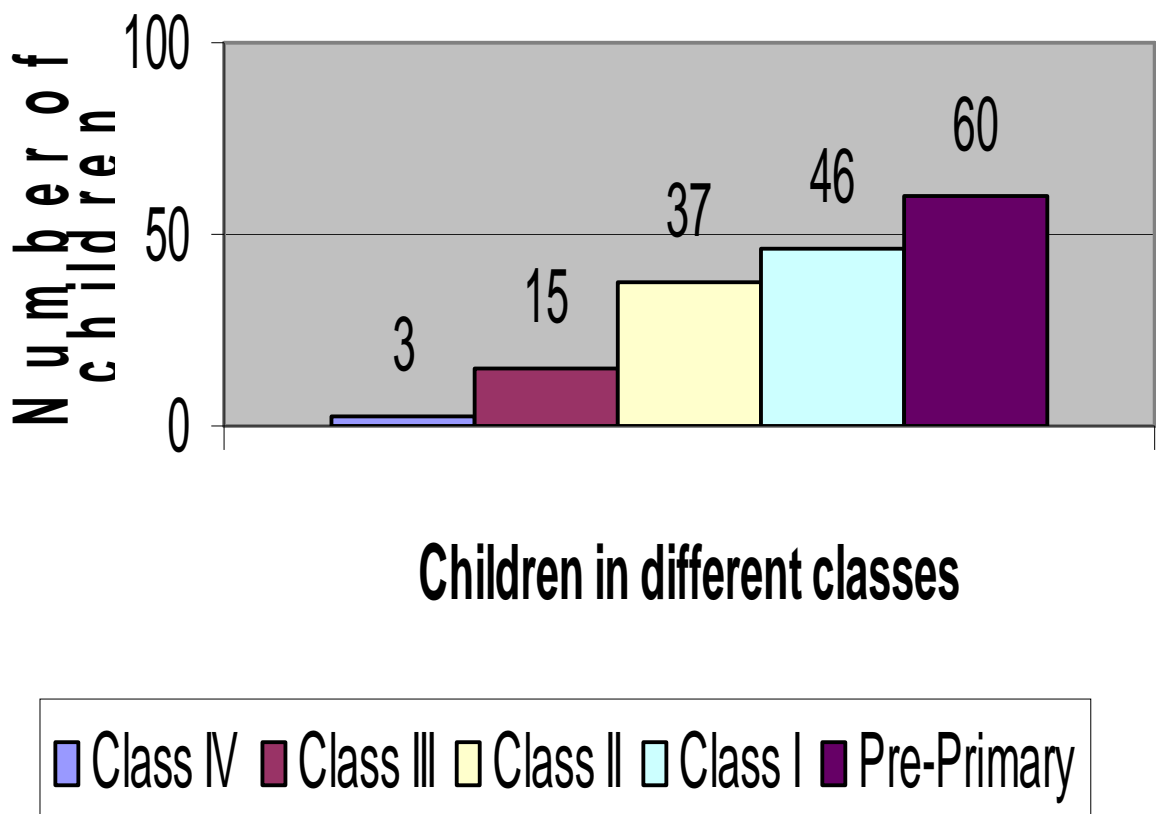
We set a high priority of children rights for education because we believe the eradication of poverty and injustice will simple not be possible without securing equality of education of girls and boys.

We aware families enhance their understanding importance of education for their children life in future. Promote the right to education motivate to send their children to government primary school for reading writing and basic arithmetic and other knowledge.

Our programme activities focus on family it believes development of a country will happen when all families will be developed, each individual will develop. It therefore uses holistic approach work with children and women. Motivate both groups.

SOHAY's children awareness programmes are on three folds. It works with children, parents and local government primary school and union parishad. SOHAY shows children and their parents the benefit of education. It is the only way and easiest way for their children to get out of poverty engaging them on different economic activities to earn more for better future life and livelihood.

Increasing interest for education in slum children



As a result of SOHAY's intervention the following are the outcome:

- All school age children in SOHAY working areas are going to government primary school.
- No drop-out.
- Parents are aware of benefit of education ensure their children leave home on time to go to school regularly.
- Slums environment have changed children prepare home-work some of them read and write till 10pm.
- Mothers are going to school to listen from parents how their children are doing in the school.
- Sign report cards.

Women rights:

We set high priority for women's rights because we believe that the eradication of poverty and injustice will simply not be possible without securing equality and rights for women.

After all the above shining statistics you might think SOHAY programme has great success on children education. In fact the reality is the success of children programme came because mothers were aware of importance of children education. Gave appropriate attention for their children education, make them ready for school.

As mentioned SOHAY programme focuses on all family members not on a particular segment of members. In SOHAY's working slums women need support for their advancement and right to achieve gender equality and to ensure human rights. The constitution of the country ensures equal rights to all its citizens and prohibits discrimination and inequality on the basis of sex.

Unfortunately, that is not true in SOHAY working areas the gap between men and women in almost all areas of life still persists. Due to the existing gaps women are subject to discrimination, injustice and inequality. SOHAY is working hard and pleased to inform you it is reducing day by day. Women are participating in day to day family decision making, they are now essential, their opinions are valued. They ensured all their children (including girls) are attending school regularly. Give special attention to their daughter education. Stop early marriage, dowry and polygamy. They are now the inspiring force husbands and elders value their opinion. SOHAY's women awareness programmes focuses women rights, gender equality, constitutional rights, human rights, raise voice and fighting against all forms of discrimination.

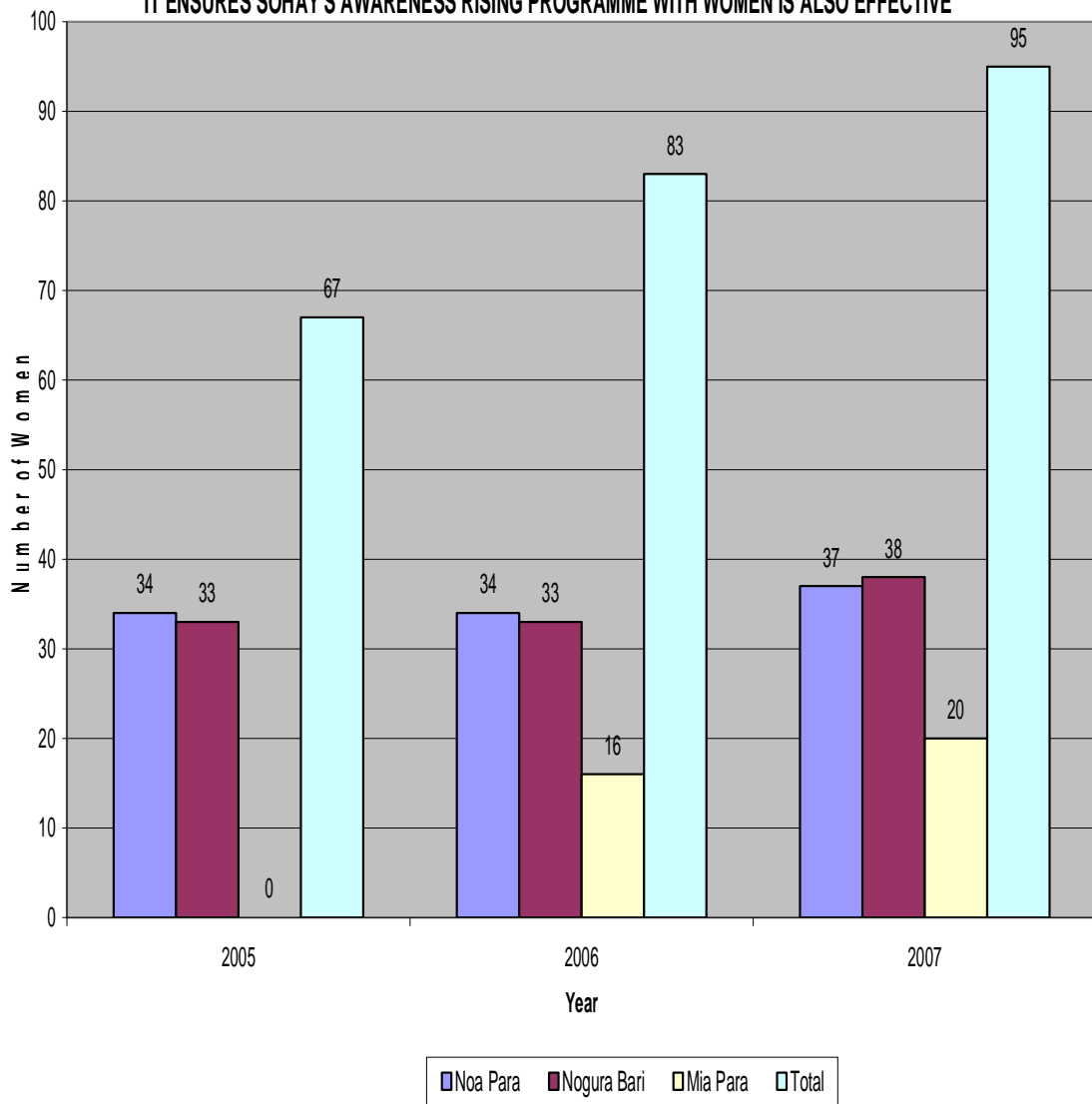
SOHAY women programme designed carefully so that they are valued in their family, their voice are properly heard. It starts with benefit of children education especially girls. The other components were reading and writing small words, sentences, bus numbers, personal and family address. Once that has ensured they started to get their position in the family SOHAY aware them their rights as per constitution and laws, women health and knowledge on water and sanitation.

SOHAY shows women are equal member in the society and have equal rights to speak and work. SOHAY forms women groups tell benefit and importance of working together and should have to help each other. It also forms Women Action Group (WAG) in its working areas who will stand against all forms of injustice in their areas.

Three years back it was hard to bring women to join SOHAY group now the numbers of growing year after year. You can see in 2005 the numbers were 67, 2006 it was 83 and now in 2007 it is 95.

The numbers are increasing because women are finding discussion in SOHAY group members benefiting their families. The women are more aware what they should do could see better future for family members. Have clear knowledge about their constitutional rights. The family members are in peace.

NUMBER OF WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN SOHAY'S AWARENESS RISING PROGRAMME
THE FIGURES ARE INCREMENTAL
IT ENSURES SOHAY'S AWARENESS RISING PROGRAMME WITH WOMEN IS ALSO EFFECTIVE



Achievements up to June 2007:

Children activities:

- All 161 school aged children are engage them with education.
- **In three slums** 60 children are learning pre-primary level. 46 children at class I level, 37 children at class II level, 15 children at class III level and 3 children at class IV level education from Government Primary School. Fully sustainable.
- Parents in SOHAY working areas ensure children are going to school regularly.
- No drop-out rate. Instead the numbers are increasing year after year.
- Out of 180 children in SOHAY working areas - 170 children are going to government primary school. 10 children are differently able.
- Last year 15 students out of 65 promoted to next class distinction marks. They were placed themselves within 10 students in their own class.
- We cannot claim proper quality of education but can claim slum children are giving more efforts for their education and doing better than other children.

- All children in SOHAY working areas are immunized.
- Slum children are free from water born diseases e.g. diarrhoea.
- There were no diarrhoea episodes in last six months in SOHAY working slums.

Women activities:

- SOHAY provides basic education to the women all women in its working areas now read and write small words.
- Women mobility have increased they can go and return from their village on their own. They now rode on correct bus without the assistance of others sat on their seat number. They were cheated before now there is no chance of cheating them.
- Women raise their voice if their rights were violated.
- Their voices are valued in the family.
- Child labour, adolescent marriage have stopped or at least reduced.
- Leaders develop appropriate knowledge and skills to play a positive role in the society.
- Skilled, educated, aware and confident women at slums - A result will be women are better able to think about their present and future.
- SOHAY is working with 132 families between work 95 women in their have basic education, health and water and sanitation knowledge.
- Women are actively involved in economic activities. For example sewing cloths
- Maternal and children mortality rate reduced. All children in slums areas are immunized.
- Decision makers in union parishad, government primary school, thana health complex and water and sanitation department value opinion of poor women and men.
- SOHAY aware communities' importance of immunization in their children life. Mothers are now taking their children to satellite clinic for immunization. All children under age five in SOHAY working ares are immunized.
- Care of pregnant and lactating mothers.
- SOHAY aware care of pregnant and lactating women. Shows types of care they should take during the time. They are now aware of all pregnant women are visiting doctors during pregnancy.
- Through this intervention SOHAY basic hygiene education to the community such a drink clean water, wash hands before eating, serving food, after returning from toilet, cleaning bottom of children and after handling feces.

- We helped all children to become aware of benefit of education. Ensure cleanliness of them.
- Women in slum became aware of their rights, aware of social services available in their areas