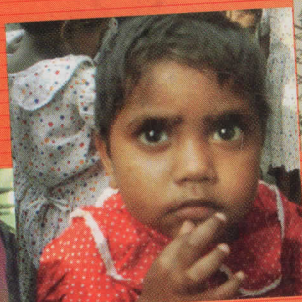


# **POVERTY ALLEVIATION** **HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT** **& MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE**



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Social Welfare**



**Poverty Alleviation  
Human Resource Development  
and  
Ministry of Social Welfare**

**Hafizul Islam Mian  
Director General  
(Additional Secretary)**

**Department of Social Services  
Ministry of Social Welfare  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**



(i)

Adviser  
Ministry of Social Welfare  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Secretariat  
Dhaka-1000.



উপদেষ্টা  
সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়  
ঢাকা-১০০০

TEL : 7169766  
FAX-880-2-7168969

টেলিফোন : ৭১৬৯৭৬৬  
ফ্যাক্স-৮৮০-২-৭১৬৮৯৬৯

## Message

It is a great pleasure for me to know that the **Ministry of Social Welfare** is bringing out an academic volume entitled as **Poverty Alleviation, Human Resource Development and Ministry of Social Welfare**. This publication is based on different programmes to address the various social issues as well as on some achievements in poverty alleviation and achievements in human resource development throughout the country.

At present, the programmes of the Ministry of Social Welfare have created a tremendous impact on the society. Specially the epoch-making programmes on social security, social safety net, social integration and also social disintegration prevention programmes run by the Ministry of Social Welfare have been able to make a positive image in the country.

As an activist in the social welfare and development sector, I feel that as a source book on the programmes of the Ministry of Social Welfare it will be very useful.

Within a short time the Ministry has been able to produce an academic resource book on the subject. I believe that this book can demonstrate the multidimensional activities of the Ministry of Social Welfare. I also believe that this book would be useful to those who are interested to know the programmes of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

I extend my felicitation to Mr. Hafizul Islam Mian, Director General (Additional Secretary), Department of Social Services and Mr. Md. Abu Baker Siddique, Deputy Director, Department of Social Services who have contributed their knowledge, skill and patience in writing and compiling this book.

Finally, I hope that this book will come to the help to the students, researchers and social activists in our society as a reference one.

(Geeteara Safiya Choudhury)

Adviser  
Ministry of Social Welfare, Industry,  
Textile & Jute and Women & Children Affairs.





**Secretary**  
Ministry of Social Welfare  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Secretariat  
Dhaka-1000.

সচিব  
সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়  
ঢাকা-১০০০

TEL : 7160452  
FAX-880-2-7168969

টেলিফোন : ৭১৬০৪৫২  
ফ্যাক্স-৮৮০-২-৭১৬৮৯৬৯

## Foreword

We know that there is a glorious history of social services in our country. As the consequences of the Second World War and partition of this sub-continent some social problems have shaken the society. To address the deteriorating social problems, social workers have come forward and rendered their best services to the by-passed segment of the population. Accordingly professional social work was introduced under Urban Community Development Board and National Council of Social Welfare in 1955 and 1956 respectively. Later on Directorate of Social Services (DSS) came into existence in 1961 and later in 1984 the Directorate was uplifted as a Department. With the emergence of the DSS, a variety of social works have started to develop human resources and to eliminate poverty of the people living below the poverty line.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has undertaken a good number of programmes on poverty alleviation, human resource development, social risk protection, social security and social safety net, social integration, prevention of social disintegration and community empowerment. The Ministry also runs programme for vulnerable groups and excluded population of the society. The Ministry of Social Welfare under the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is performing its functions as one of the key ministries to address the social issues.

The programmes are well designed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, existing acts and laws and national policies of the country. The Ministry also recognizes the commitment and declarations, conventions of the International forum including United Nations.

The Ministry of Social Welfare is going to publish a comprehensive academic book on the programmes of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Attached Offices, which is titled as **Poverty Alleviation, Human Resource Development and Ministry of Social Welfare**.

I express my sincere & heartfelt gratitude to the writers, specially Mr. Hafizul Islam Mian, Director General (Additional Secretary), Department of Social Services, Mr. Md. Amjad Hossain Khan, Director (Programme), Department of Social Services, Mr. Md. Abu Baker Siddique, Deputy Director. I also thank Mr. Kiran Shankar Biswas, Research & Publication Officer, Mr. Rakib Ahmad, Social Services Officer (R.O), Mr. Md. Masud Rana, Statistician and Mr. Md. Nurul Amin Khan, Social Services Officer who has rendered their best and utmost services to this academic work. I think this book will be able to meet the thirst of the interested readers, students, researchers and social thinkers.

The Ministry of Social Welfare hopes that the readers will come to know some social sector programmes of the Government of Bangladesh.

(M. A. Hye Howlader)

Secretary  
Ministry of Social Welfare.



**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Department of Social Welfare

Samaj Seba Bhaban

E 8/B 1, Agargaon

Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.



মহাপরিচালক

সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর

সমাজ সেবা ভবন

ই-৮/বি-১ আগারগাঁও

শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

Tel : +88 02 9131966

Fax: +880 02 8110074

Email : sseba@citechco.net

টেলিফোন : +৮৮০ ২ ৯১৩১৯৬৬

ফ্যাক্স-+৮৮০ ২ ৮১১০০৭৪

ইমেইল sseba@citechco.net

**Acknowledgements**

Social issues, specially the issues on poverty, human resource, vulnerability of the by-passed, problem stricken population and excluded societies are increasingly central to our lives. A lot of work is to be done by the Government, social workers, policy makers and other stakeholders to address the issues on poverty and vulnerability of the by-passed segment of our population.

The Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW) along with others Ministries, Departments and Development Partners have undertaken multidimensional programmes to address the social issues with the essence of latest philosophy of the social work. Mere learning without practice is useless. Meeting with disappointment but not discouraged, the programmes of the Social Welfare sector started its functioning from 1955 under different ministries and departments. The unique nature, feature and sustainability of the programmes of the MoSW on various kinds of social issues make the Ministry as one of the leaders to address the social problems.

We know that accurate and sufficient information is essential for the planners, social minders and thinkers and as well as for the Government. But there was a long felt demand of a source book on the programmes of the Ministry of Social Welfare. In the "National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction", the programmes for poverty alleviation of the most vulnerable like persons with disabilities, by-passed people are not adequate. More programmes should be undertaken to address their vulnerable issues, some of which are executed by the Ministry of Social Welfare. These programmes are elaborated briefly in the present book.

Policy makers may find the book useful in getting confidence to invest more in the social issues specially on poverty alleviation, human resource development, social security and safety net, social integration, prevention of social disintegration and other emerging social issues. The MoSW would thankfully accept any comments and suggestions on the book from the concerned stakeholders.

I hope that this book will be useful one as reference and would facilitate the functions of the Ministry along with the attached Offices and Organisations.

Here, I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Md. Amjad Hossain Khan, Director (Programme), Mr. Md. Abu Baker Siddique, Deputy Director, DSS, who have to some extent worked as co-authors. I also thank Mr. Kiran Shankar Biswas, Research and Publication Officer, Mr. Md. Sazzadul Islam, Liaison Officer, Mr. Rakib Ahmad, Social Services Officer, Mr. Md. Masud Rana, Statistician, Mr. Md. Nurul Amin Khan, Social Services Officer, Mr. Md. Abdul Kader, Steno Typist and Mr. Quazi Nazmul Hasan, Office Assistant of the DSS who have given much time in collecting data and composing the book. I am offering special thanks to all officers and staff who have provided support and inspiration to complete this task.

**(Hafizul Islam Mian)**

Director General

**(Additional Secretary)**

Department of Social Services



## Abbreviations and Glossary

AB	: Aparajeyo Bangladesh
ARISE	: Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment
ASA	: Assistance for Social Advancement
BAAIGM	: Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine
BBS	: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BIDS	: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
BIRDEM	: Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders
BRAC	: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BTB	: Bangladesh Television
CBO	: Community Based Organisation
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CIDA	: Canadian International Development Agency
CSO	: Civil Society Organisation
DG	: Director General
DHS	: Demographic and Health Survey
DIC	: Drop-in-Centre
DSS	: Department of Social Services
EC	: Executive Committee



ERCPH	:	Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped
FDI	:	Foreign Direct Investments
FY	:	Financial Year
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GMC	:	Global Movement for Children
GoB	:	Government of Bangladesh
HIES	:	Household Income and Expenditure Surveys
HRD	:	Human Resource Development
ILO	:	International Labour Organisation
IRDP	:	Integrated Rural Development Programme
LDC	:	Least Developed Countries
LMC	:	Local Management Committee
LPIC	:	Local Project Implementation Committee
MDG	:	Millennium Development Goal
MIX	:	Micro-Finance Information Exchange
MOST	:	Management of Social Transformation
MoA	:	Ministry of Agriculture
MoC	:	Ministry of Commerce/ Ministry of Communications
MoCA	:	Ministry of Cultural Affairs
MoCAT	:	Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism
MoCHTA	:	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
MoD	:	Ministry of Defence

MoE	: Ministry of Education/ Ministry of Establishment
MoEF	: Ministry of Environment and Forest
MoEWOE	: Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment
MoF	: Ministry of Finance
MoFA	: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoFDM	: Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
MoFL	: Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock
MoHA	: Ministry of Home Affairs
MoHFW	: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoHPW	: Ministry of Housing and Public Works
MoI	: Ministry of Industries/ Ministry of Information
MoJT	: Ministry of Jute and Textiles
MoL	: Ministry of Land
MoLE	: Ministry of Labour and Employment
MoLGRDC	: Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
MoLJPA	: Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs
MoLWA	: Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
MoP	: Ministry of Planning
MoPEMR	: Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources
MoPME	: Ministry of Primary & Mass Education
MoPT	: Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
MoRA	: Ministry of Religious Affairs



MoS	: Ministry of Shipping
MoSICT	: Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology
MoSW	: Ministry of Social Welfare
MoWCA	: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MoWR	: Ministry of Water Resources
MoYS	: Ministry of Youth & Sports
NFDDP	: National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons
NGO	: Non-Government Organisation
PCAR	: Protection of Children At Risk
PFA	: Platform for Action
PIC	: Project Implementation Committee
PKSF	: Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation
PRS	: Poverty Reduction Strategy
PRSP	: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSTC	: Population Services and Training Centre
PVC	: Project Village Committee
PWD	: Persons with Disability
RDRS	: Rangpur Dinajpur Rehabilitation Services
RF	: Revolving Fund
RIF	: Resettlement Investment Fund
RMC	: Implementation of National Population Programme through Rural Mother's Centre
RSS	: Rural Social Services Programme

RWC	: Rural Women's Cooperatives
SAARC	: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
Safe Home	: Safe Custody Home for the Women and Adolescent Girls
SDF	: Social Development Foundation
SDW	: Socially Disadvantaged Women
SME	: Small and Medium Enterprise
SPK	: Samaj Paribartan Kendra
SSN	: Social Safety Nets
SSNP	: Social Safety Net Programmes
STD	: Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TFR	: Total Fertility Rate
TMSS	: Thengamara Mohila Samabaya Samity
TOT	: Training of Trainers
TV	: Television
UCD	: Urban Community Development
UN	: United Nations
UNCRC	: United Nations Child Rights Convention
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USA	: United States of America
USSO	: Upazila Social Services Officers
VARD	: Voluntary Organisation for Social Development
VBI	: Village Based Institutions
VOSD	: Voluntary Organisation for Social Development
WVTPA	: Women's Vocational Training Programme for Population Activities



## Contents

Sl. No	Subject	Page
<b>Chapter-I</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	1
1.1.	Background	1
1.2.	Phenomenon of Poverty	3
1.3.	Poverty Alleviation through Human Resource Development	4
1.3.1.	Poverty Alleviation through Education	4
1.3.2.	Poverty Alleviation through Training	4
1.3.3.	Poverty Alleviation through Health Service	5
<b>1.4.</b>	<b>Capacity Building and Poverty Alleviation</b>	6
1.4.1.	Necessity of Capacity Building	6
1.4.2.	Conceptual Explanation	6
1.4.3.	Capacity Building and Social Interaction	7
1.4.4.	Capacity and Sustainability	7
1.4.5.	The Relevance of Capacity Building	8
<b>1.5.</b>	<b>Brief History of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Bangladesh</b>	8
<b>1.6.</b>	<b>Reducing Trend of Poverty in Bangladesh</b>	12
<b>1.7.</b>	<b>Major Actors in Poverty Alleviation</b>	15
1.7.1.	Actors in Government	15
1.7.2.	Role of NGOs and International Organisations	17

Sl. No	Subject	Page
<b>1.8.</b>	<b>Some Socio-economic-political Achievements by the Government</b>	18
1.8.1.	Alleviation of Poverty along with Development in associated Sectors	19
1.8.2.	Overcoming the Starvation Threat	19
1.8.3.	Population Control and Social Development	20
1.8.4.	Mainstreaming Women in Development Process	22
1.8.5.	Increasing Life Expectancy and Reducing Child Mortality	22
1.8.6.	Reducing Child Malnutrition	23
1.8.7.	Children's Advancement	23
1.8.8.	Advancement in Disability Issues	24
1.8.9.	Rise of NGOs and CSOs	24
1.8.10.	Democratic Transition	25
<b>1.9.</b>	<b>Road Map for Accelerated Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh</b>	26
1.9.1	Framework of the poverty reduction Strategy	27
<b>Chapter-II</b>	<b>Ministry of Social Welfare</b>	29
2.1.	Concept of Social Welfare	29
2.2.	Fundamental Principles of Social Welfare Policy	30
2.3.	Aims and Objectives of the Social Welfare Policy	30
2.4.	Social Welfare Activities in Bangladesh	31
2.5.	Introduction to the Ministry of Social Welfare	32
2.6.	Functions of the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW)	35



Sl. No	Subject	Page
<b>Chapter-III</b>	<b>Department of Social Services</b>	39
3.1.	Introduction to the Department of Social Services (DSS)	39
3.2.	Functions of the Department of Social Services	40
3.3.	Programme Synopsis of the DSS	42
3.3.1.	Poverty Alleviation through Human Resource Development	43
3.3.2.	Poverty Alleviation through Social Safety Net (Security and Protection) Programmes	43
3.3.3.	Social Integration Programmes (Poverty Alleviation through Human Resource Development)	44
3.3.4.	Prevention of Social Disintegration Programmes (Poverty Alleviation Programmes)	44
3.3.5.	Disability Related Programmes	45
3.3.6.	Welfare and Service Delivery Programmes	46
3.3.7.	Human Resource Development and Capacity Building through Training	46
3.3.8.	Community Empowerment Programmes through Voluntary Works	46
3.3.9.	Research and Publications	46
3.3.10.	Poverty Alleviation through Implementation of Annual Development Plan (ADP)	46
3.3.10.1.	Development Projects	46
<b>3.4.</b>	<b>Social Security Programmes undertaken by the Ministry of Social Welfare but later transferred to other ministries.</b>	<b>47</b>

Sl. No	Subject	Page
<b>Chapter-IV</b>	<b>Description of the Programmes run by the DSS</b>	49
<b>4.1.</b>	<b>Poverty Alleviation Programmes</b>	49
4.1.1.	Urban Community Development (UCD) Programme	49
4.1.2.	Rural Social Services (RSS) Programme	54
4.1.3.	Implementation of National Population Programme through Rural Mother's Centre (RMC)	61
4.1.4.	Rehabilitation Programme for the Acid Burnt Women and Handicapped People	66
4.1.5.	Abasan / Asrayan Project	72
<b>4.2.</b>	<b>Poverty Alleviation through Social Safety Net (Security and Protection) Programmes</b>	73
4.2.1.	Old Age Allowance	73
4.2.2.	Allowance for the Insolvent Persons with Disabilities	76
4.2.3.	Honorarium (Allowance) for the distressed Freedom Fighters	78
4.2.4.	Stipend Programme for the Students with Disabilities	78
<b>4.3.</b>	<b>Social Integration Programmes (Poverty Alleviation through Human Resource Development)</b>	78
4.3.1.	Sarkari Shishu Paribar (Government Children Homes)	79
4.3.2.	Financial Assistance to the non-Government Orphanages	81
4.3.3.	Pre-Vocational Training Programme in the Orphanages	82
4.3.4.	Baby Homes	82



Sl. No	Subject	Page
4.3.5.	Day Care Centre	83
4.3.6.	Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Destitute Children	84
4.3.7.	Socio-economic Training Centres for the Women	84
4.3.8.	Vocational Training and Production Centre for the Destitute Women	85
4.3.9.	Protection of Children at Risk (PCAR) Project	85
<b>4.4.</b>	<b>Prevention of Social Disintegration Programmes (Poverty Alleviation Programms)</b>	90
4.4.1.	Juvenile Development Centres	91
4.4.2.	Probation and Aftercare Services	94
4.4.3.	Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Vagrants (Sharkari Ashroy Kendro)	96
4.4.4.	Safe Custody for Women and Adolescent Girls (Safe Home)	98
4.4.5.	Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Socially Disadvantaged Girls	99
4.4.6.	Programme for Socially Disadvantaged Girls (Sex Workers)	102
<b>4.5.</b>	<b>Disability Related Programmes</b>	112
4.5.1.	Integrated Education Programme for the Visually Impaired	113
4.5.2.	Schools for the Visually Impaired	113
4.5.3.	Schools for the Hearing Impaired	115
4.5.4.	Institution for the Mentally Retarded Children	116

Sl. No	Subject	Page
4.5.5.	Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH)	116
4.5.6.	Braille Press	117
4.5.7.	Plastic Goods Production Centre	118
4.5.8.	Mineral Water Plant run by the Persons with Disabilities	118
4.5.9.	Artificial Limb Production Centre	119
4.5.10.	National Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired	119
4.5.11.	Training Centre for Physically Handicapped	120
4.5.12.	Job Placement Services	121
4.5.13.	9 point short and long term programmes	121
<b>4.6.</b>	<b>Welfare and Service Delivery Programmes</b>	123
4.6.1.	Hospital/Medical Social Services Programmes	123
4.6.2.	Financial Assistance for Treatment and Rehabilitation of the Burn-victims	126
<b>4.7.</b>	<b>Human Resource Development and Capacity Building through Training</b>	127
4.7.1.	National Academy of Social Services (NASS)	127
4.7.2.	Regional Training Centres	129
<b>4.8.</b>	<b>Community Empowerment Programmes through Voluntary Works</b>	130



Sl. No	Subject	Page
4.8.1.	Registration, Control and Empowerment of the Voluntary Organisations	130
4.8.2.	GO-NGO Collaboration with Coordination with the DSS	132
<b>4.9.</b>	<b>Research and Publications</b>	135
4.9.1.	Research, Monitoring and Evaluation	135
4.9.2.	Arrangement of Publication, Publicity, Seminar, Workshop, Advocacy Programmes	135
4.9.3.	Preparation/Amendment of Law, Rules, Principles, Manuals, etc.	136
<b>4.10.</b>	<b>Poverty Alleviation through Implementation of Annual Development Plan (ADP)</b>	137
4.10.1.	Recently Implemented Development Projects	138
4.10.2.	On going Development Projects	140
4.10.3.	Future Plan for the Medium Term Macroeconomic Framework	141
<b>Chapter-V</b>	<b>Bangladesh National Council of Social Welfare</b>	143
5.1.	Background	143
5.2.	Functions of the Social Welfare Council	143
5.3.	Activities of the Council	145
5.3.1.	Distribution of Grant in Aid	145
5.3.2.	Training Programme of Bangladesh National Council of Social Welfare	148
5.3.3.	Research Work	148

Sl. No	Subject	Page
5.3.4.	Seminar/ Workshop	149
5.3.5.	Identification Social Problems and Recommendations	149
<b>Chapter-VI</b>	<b>Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF)</b>	151
6.1.	Background	151
6.2.	Restructured JPUF	151
<b>6.3.</b>	<b>Major Activities of the Foundation in recent time</b>	153
6.3.1.	Disbursement of grants in aid and micro-credit for the welfare of the Persons with Disabilities	153
<b>6.4.</b>	<b>Programmes undertaken by the JPUF</b>	154
6.4.1.	National Special Education Centre	154
6.4.2.	SWID-Bangladesh	155
6.4.3.	Bangladesh Foundation of Disabled Persons	156
6.4.4.	Other special programmes	156
6.4.5.	Other Programmes taken by the Foundation	160
<b>Chapter-VII</b>	<b>Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahian Trust</b>	161
7.1.	A Short History	161
7.2.	Objectives of the Trust	162
7.3.	Activities of the Trust	163
<b>Chapter-VIII</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	165
	<b>References</b>	167



# Chapter I

## Introduction

### 1.1. Background

"Bangladesh is already embarked on a journey of transformation. Translating this into a journey of hope for a poverty-free and egalitarian society is the key contemporary challenge. It is a challenge which demands active, intelligent and innovative engagement from all Governments, development agencies, private sector, non-Government organisations (NGOs), community organisations, media and academia and above all, from the people of Bangladesh themselves. The engagement is not just for policy planning. It is as importantly an engagement for results, for inclusion, for imaginative solutions and ultimately an engagement to unlock the potentials of the nation" (Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction 2005:xxii)

One of the principal goals of economic policy of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is to reduce poverty to a significant level and improve the quality of life of the average people as early as possible. Bangladesh has gained a remarkable achievement in reducing poverty since its independence in 1971. The poverty situation in Bangladesh was horrifying during 1975 and it was estimated that people below the poverty line in Bangladesh reached 83% in that period (Banglapedia Vol.8:2003:159). Due to the multi-dimensional efforts of the successive Governments and private sectors, the figure curbed down to 33% by 2002 (Lower poverty line estimate, World Bank, 2002-cited in Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction 2005: xiv-footnote). Further, Bangladesh has made great effort in improving the lives of its people, raising literacy and school enrolment, reducing population growth and infant mortality rate, increasing life expectancy at birth, improving health services and empowering women to a great extent. Most importantly, anti-poverty innovations initiated by the Government and later extended by the private sector such as disbursement of micro-credit without collateral have gone on to win world renown.

Despite impressive progress in some specific areas, poverty continues to be pervasive and it is still a great challenge. Region wise inequality is a major concern. Women continue to face entrenched barriers even after empowerment to a significant level. Weak governance stands in the way of an accelerated growth process. To achieve the goal of accelerated poverty reduction, the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction document has recommended a medium-term eight point strategic agenda for Bangladesh, which constitutes the following (the list to be read as a whole rather than as a sequence of priorities):

- Employment
- Nutrition
- Quality Education (particularly in primary, secondary and vocational levels with strong emphasis on girls education)
- Local Governance
- Maternal Health
- Sanitation and Safe Water
- Criminal Justice
- Monitoring (ibid:xx).

Alongside these strategic agenda, there are other agenda like social security and protection and other safety net and poverty alleviation programmes for the vulnerable population. In Bangladesh still more than one third of its population live below the poverty level and there are disabled population, by-passed, poor, distressed, orphan and ethnic population. The problems of these segments of population living below the poverty line should be addressed by the Government first. The share of national budget should be spent giving priority to these segments of population so that they may not remain discriminated further. The Ministry of Social Welfare along with other concerned ministries and departments have the responsibility to alleviate poverty of the people within a short period of time.

## 1.2. Phenomenon of Poverty

Poverty is a complex phenomenon responsible for economic backwardness of all the poor countries. In these countries, poverty is prevalent despite decades of national and international efforts to eradicate it. We know what the effects of poverty are, how it is linked to environmental decline, how it squanders human resources, how it undermines the developing potential of human resources as well as countries. The blame lies not only with the lack of generosity of developed countries that like to assume the mantle of donor-ship. The poor countries are responsible too. Priorities must be set and acted upon. Investments in people and affirmative action to the benefit of the poor are needed. Countries that do not put their own people first will pay dearly and lag even further behind. According to Bruntland (cited by Oyen et al eds. 1996: viii), "there is enough food in the world to feed the hungry, but they do not have access to it. There is enough knowledge in this world to educate everybody. Knowledge is an infinite resource, but the means of its dissemination are lacking, owing to a lack of political priorities". How we respond to the knowledge about poverty and to its activities towards reduction will determine how we enter the current century and the prospects for a more just, more equitable world.

Poverty is a socio-economic problem that needs to be conceptualised (Sen 1981:9). In a simple term, poverty may be defined as the inability to acquire enough resources to purchase the bare necessities of life. According to Oppenheim and Harker (1996), "it steals away the opportunity to have a life unmarked by sickness, a decent education, a secure home and a long retirement" (cited by Alcock 1997:15).

Townsend (1970:2) describes that poverty must be regarded as a general form of relative deprivation which is the effect of the improper distribution of resources. More generally, poverty refers to various forms of economic, social and psychological deprivation among the people who lack adequate ownership, control or access to resources for achieving a minimum level of living. It is a multidimensional problem involving income, access to credit and other aspects of living.

"Poverty has always had several not entirely separable meanings and is always defined according to the conventions of the society in which it occurs" (Hobsbawm 1968:398). For example, in 1964 a fifth of the population of the United States was



officially described as living in poverty (Orshansky 1965- cited by Shah Nawaz 2000:26). Orshansky argues that in the USA some families with ten-time real income than that of the poorest persons in developing countries are deemed to be in poverty (ibid:26). So poverty line varies between climates, cultures, social and economic environments.

### **1.3. Poverty Alleviation through Human Resource Development (HRD)**

Alleviation of poverty, human resource development (HRD), establishment of social justice, protection of human rights and proper distribution of wealth now measure national development. National policy and action programmes are designed with special emphasis on human resource development. The HRD is a title, which represents the latest evolutionary stages of training, educating and developing people for purpose of contributing towards the achievement of individual, organisational and societal objectives. Actually the development of human resources may be achieved through education, training and capacity build up and other aspects like health and nutrition which contribute towards the self-reliance. Human resource development is closely inter-related with the poverty reduction. Reduction would be continuous if the development of human resources were in process. In the "National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction" of our Government, the policy is to foster human development of the poor for raising capability through education, training, health care, nutrition and other social interventions.

#### **1.3.1. Poverty Alleviation through Education**

Deprivation from education itself is a key element of poverty. Education helps in developing knowledge, skill and understanding required in all aspects of life rather than a knowledge and skill relating to only a limited field of activity. Education itself can improve one's capacity to get an employment. If one concentrates on technical education, his personal development, capacity and creativity would be more effective than that of the general education. So in respect of human development for the vast population, specially for underprivileged groups, the technical and vocational education would be more effective in solving the unemployment problem, which in turn alleviate poverty to a great extent.

#### **1.3.2. Poverty Alleviation through Training**

Training is a planned process to modify attitude, knowledge, skill and behaviour through learning experience to achieve effective performance in an activity or range of activities. Its purpose, in the work situation, is to develop the abilities of the individual on

the one hand and to satisfy the current and future needs of the organisation on the other. Training helps in building capacity of any individual by raising more skill, competence, capability and efficiency in his profession.



Children receiving training at Sarkari Shishu Paribar (State Orphanage).

### 1.3.3. Poverty Alleviation through Health Services

Health is universally regarded as an important index of human development. It is true that a high degree of under nourishment and diseases have adverse implications to future poverty reduction programme. Ill health is both the cause and effect of poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. Policies of human development are not only to raise the income of the people but also to improve other components of their standard of living, such as life expectancy, health, literacy, knowledge and control over their destiny. Health and development converge and contribute to each other. The goal of the health, nutrition and population sector is to achieve sustainable improvement in the health, nutrition, and reproductive health, including family planning, for the people, particularly of vulnerable groups, including the women, the children, the disabled people, the elderly, and the poor.



Besides education, training and health programme, good governance is also intensively related to the poverty alleviation strategy of the Government. There is no controversy that good governance issue is critical and essential for a more effective growth and poverty reduction strategy. Eradicating corruption through proper application of existing law should be another important strategy to reduce poverty to a great extent. The gender-based discrimination has to be eliminated and efforts towards that end must form an integral part of poverty reduction initiatives and strategies. Capacity build-up is another solution to win the struggle for poverty alleviation. So poverty reduction as well as alleviation requires some inter-related elements like human resource development, education, training, health, nutrition, elimination of gender disparity, good governance, eradication of corruption and capacity build up.

## **1.4. Capacity Building and Poverty Alleviation**

### **1.4.1. Necessity of Capacity Build-up**

Capacity can give fitness to individuals to win the struggle for existence. Due to economic isolation, low access to education and health facility, low exposure to society, less participation in decision making by the hardcore poor people, it is thought that capacity building might be one of the solutions to their problem. Any significant improvement for poverty alleviation would require stronger support from the Government as well as from the NGOs. At the same time, every individual has to be motivated and mobilised to work for better access to the facilities provided for the enhancement of his capacity.

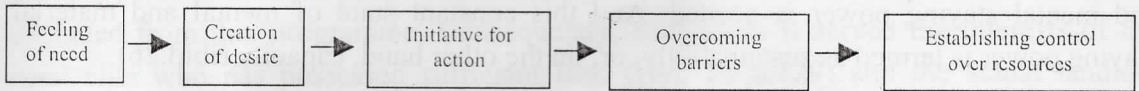
### **1.4.2. Conceptual Explanation**

Capacity is one's skill to establish control over resources, which is obtained through 'learning by doing' process (Leach 1993:5). When an individual is able to do or manage something with efficiency, skill, competence and controlling power, this ability can be termed as capacity or capability. This capacity is strengthened through action, reflection and further action through skill and efficiency (Timm 1994:20).



To establish control and endowment over both external and internal resources, action is the first stage, where feeling of need and creations of desire emerge, reflection is the consequence of action, where the impulse of power and vigour of work for controlling resources is found. Continuation of the first and the second stages go on to further action. This stage is also accomplished through learning by doing process. Further action gradually ensures one's capability to gain from internal and external activities (ibid:20).

So it can be said that capacity build-up is a continuous process and is related to some self-explanatory actions as shown in the following diagram (ibid: 20):



### 1.4.3. Capacity Building and Social Interaction

Social interaction is the 'prime mover' for strengthening capacity on the bondage of poor men's part. Entering the society, communicating with the local groups and community, one can share views, ideas, and norms, values and cultures, which invigorate or simulate one's sense of proportion (ibid: 23). This process involves one influencing to realize self-experience that directly shapes his life, whether this is in the work place, community or society. In group community or society everything is done anticipatorily, where respective ideas and experience would be valued or respected. It is believed that an individual participates in creating his own reality and future through engaging in learning and action, rather than simply being passive victims of forces beyond his control. It may be highlighted that new ways of seeing the world may challenge one's sense of self and force reconsideration of one's own actions or responsibilities. "Individual willingness to change the self-concept can improve collective capacity, while unwillingness to change one's view of one-self diminishes collective capacity" (Leach 1993:13).

### 1.4.4. Capacity and Sustainability

Capacity and sustainability can be tagged together in real sense. An individual with developed capacity can achieve sustainability earlier; on the other hand, a sustainable condition enhances one's capacity more. In a more positive sense, self-reliance is a driving force for creative activity which requires an awareness of one's

creative assets. This is arising out of a combination of material resources under one's control and such mental resources as confidence in one's ability to solve original problems of life, the courage to take on challenging tasks and the stamina to make sustained efforts to accomplish them and so on. Once more, the necessary mental resources are cultivable. Resistance requires creative responses to challenge so that resistance itself generates and promotes the constructive potentials of self-reliance (Rahman 1994:21).

In a development perspective, self-reliance or sustainability is taken, as one's own mental and material resources and one's skill for utilizing them properly. To be self-reliant in the context of the rural poor and to sustain this effect, a combination of material and mental staying power is needed. And this constant state of mental and material staying power is termed as sustainability, or, on the other hand, capacity (ibid:26).

#### **1.4.5. The Relevance of Capacity Building**

Capacity building is a continuous process both in institutional and at individual levels. The individual level capacity building is necessary to raise the efficiency in using the available resources and sustain the development impact and also to be able to harness local available resources effectively without any outside intervention in future. The institutional level capacity building is needed to sustain and continue the poverty alleviation intervention after withdrawal of donor support. This is, of course, the overriding long-term objective. The immediate objective of capacity building of local institution is to ensure efficient allocation and use of resources so as to harvest maximum benefit from the available inputs to continue and sustain the productive intervention to uplift the economic condition of the poor.

### **1.5. Brief History of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Bangladesh**

Poverty alleviation programme should be a continuous process and for the purpose of continuity it is required to know actual history of poverty alleviation process from the beginning in our country. The Urban Community Development Board undertook poverty reduction programmes first in this country by the then Government in 1955 through the Urban Community Development (UCD) Project in Dhaka for rehabilitation of the refugees from India.



In the 1960s, a two tier Co-operative Model, popularly known as Comilla Model initiated by Mr. Akhter Hamid Khan, an eminent Civil Servant, gained significant momentum as a policy for rural development and poverty alleviation (Khan 1979: 397). This model aimed at comprehensive development of an area by involving the small and medium farmers through co-operative societies under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). This programme undertook a series of rural development activities with the objective of reducing poverty through village based co-operatives, human resource development, expansion of irrigation schemes, improvement of physical infrastructure, increasing agricultural production and creation of employment opportunities for the rural poor. However, this programme later administered by the Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) did not yield expected results. This was primarily due to landless people, who constitute the core of the rural poverty often being excluded from this programme. Consequently, sometimes it served the interests of the rural elite who has possessed sufficient land (Hye 1996:129) and the actual landless people were deprived (Hannan 1993:62). Yet the impact of Comilla Model in the process of rural development and poverty alleviation should be recognised as the foundation of poverty reduction programme in Bangladesh.

In the late 1960s Government initiated a few micro credit programmes for small business enterprises. Among these were the Faria-Bepari Jute Financing Scheme and the Small Loan Scheme were prominent. Under the first scheme, retailers in jute trading, farias as well as beparis (petty merchants), were financed by scheduled banks and maximum loan limit for farias was Taka 1000 and for beparis Taka 2000. These loans were collateral free, but trading licenses were to be deposited with the banks as security. Under the second scheme, the State Bank of Pakistan advised scheduled banks to develop their own small loan schemes to cater services to the needs of small economic activities. Some of the schemes were the 'Peoples Credit' of the National Bank of Pakistan (loan ceiling Taka 2000), 'Shopkeepers Loan Scheme' of Habib Bank Ltd. (ceiling Taka 1000), and 'Small Loan Scheme' of United Bank Ltd. (ceiling Taka 1000). These programmes could not achieve its desired results because dishonest bank officials extended lending facilities to the big traders under fake names under the licenses of farias, beparis and small traders. Dishonesty of the dealers including the bank officials and the absence of regulatory law could not produce the expected results from these micro-credit ventures of the then Government (Banglapedia Vol-6:2003:478).



It was marked during the 1970s that poverty could not be reduced significantly through cooperative and other programmes; hence thrust of action was directed towards non-farm activities (Islam et al 1996:734, Shah Nawaz 2000:23). During this decade, the Ministry of Social Welfare started micro-credit programmes in the name of Rural Social Services (RSS) in 1974 and later on Implementation of National Population Activities through Rural Mother's Centre (RMC) in 1975. In these programmes, the micro-credit was collateral free and interest free, which gained much momentum in respect of poverty alleviation in the late 1970s. These two programmes are contributing a lot in poverty reduction of the hard core poor of the country even today.

From late 1970's, the Ministry of Social Welfare initiated health sector programmes, where there are important institutions like Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM), DAB Cardiac Centre, National Heart Foundation, Institute of Child Health, Dhaka Community Hospital, Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM), Community Welfare and Health Care Centre of Bangladesh Medical, etc. are included. Now there are branches of Diabetic Centres and Heart Foundation in many districts. In these institutions, there are provisions of treatment of the diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, children diseases, etc. for the millions of people of Bangladesh. The Ministry of Social Welfare has set conditions that in these medical institutions among the patients to be treated there must be at least 30% poor patients which are regularly monitored. The Ministry of Social Welfare is extending its health sector programmes on a gradual basis in the whole country.

In the 1980s, the Government and the private sector started organising unemployed people in non-farm activities like garments industries, agro-based industries and in self-employment programmes. These programmes have showed accelerated rate of employment, which in turn reduced poverty rate largely.

A number of Government owned commercial and specialised banks (Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank) provide micro-credit to the landless and small farmers for poverty alleviation. Homeless people are not beneficiaries of these micro-credit programmes. Grameen Bank has got Nobel Prize along with its founder Dr. Mohammad Yunus for its

excellent poverty alleviation programmes through disbursing micro-credit. Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF) is providing loan through NGOs to the people living below poverty level. Many NGOs, particularly the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Proshika, and Assistance for Social Advancement (ASA) are also providing micro-credits to the rural poor. The Assistance for Social Advancement has become the most successful institutions in respect of poverty alleviation through micro-credit twice and this performance has been announced by the Micro-Finance Information Exchange (MIX) of the USA. However, still most of the landless, homeless people remain outside the programme. Sen (1996:195) indicates that micro-credit, which is extended by the NGOs in rural Bangladesh, have failed to reach the extreme poor (cited by Shah Nawaz 2000: 63).

During the 1990s, the major Government poverty alleviation programmes include Food for Works Programme, Food for Education, Female Secondary Stipend Programme, Allowance for Elderly People, Allowance for the Widowed and Distressed Women, Vulnerable Group Development, Rural Maintenance Programme, Housing for Poor and Homeless, input distribution like the programme of providing insecticides and high yield variety of seeds to rural farmers. There are at least 27 Safety Net Programmes run by different ministries of the GoB. The Government has further undertaken development initiatives to expand the area of non-agricultural activities in order to create more employment opportunities. All these programmes are gradually reducing the poverty of the poor people of Bangladesh to a significant level.

After 2001, along with multidimensional programmes of different ministries of the Government, the Ministry of Social Welfare started the most important poverty alleviation programme namely, the collateral and interest-free micro-credit programme for the most vulnerable group of the society covering 10 percent of the population, such as, the disabled persons, the acid victims and other burnt people in the country.

Recently, the Government has enacted a law named "Micro-credit Regulatory Authority Ain-2006" to introduce micro-credit programme by the NGOs. The expectation is that the law and its provisions for operation of micro credit would give a new directive and dimension in the field of poverty alleviation.



## 1.6. Reducing Trend of Poverty in Bangladesh

Bangladesh had been a poverty stricken country because of many factors, of which some were man made and some natural. Here poverty was attributed to many factors which include-

1. Limited per capita resource endowment
2. Extremely small amount per capita arable land (sometimes nil)
3. Illiteracy and backwardness of large section of people
4. Poor health (malnutrition) and sanitation
5. Poor housing condition
6. Large scale deprivation of the women and girls
7. Deforestation and environmental degradation
8. Population pressure
9. Different types of natural calamities like, floods, cyclones, droughts, etc.
10. Large scale corruption
11. Weak governance, etc.

These factors are multidimensional in nature and required different approaches to alleviate poverty of the hardcore poor of the country in a stipulated time. In this respect a number of quality of life variables should be taken into account, which include

1. Access to resources (specially permanent assets, like land)
2. Education and employment
3. Better housing facilities
4. Access to safe drinking water
5. Health care and better nutrition
6. Better sanitation services
7. Social protection and security
8. Participation in income generating works
9. Institutional capacity to cope with crisis
10. Aforestation and congenial environment
11. Good governance and eradication of corruption
12. Easy access to information, etc.



The Government since long has been addressing the factors responsible for poverty and is continuously undertaking multidimensional programmes to alleviate poverty considering the above variables in the Social Welfare Sector. With the positive impact of the aforementioned variables, the economy of Bangladesh observed moderately accelerated growth in the 1990s compared to the previous decades. In the 1980s, per capita GDP had grown slowly at the rate of about 1.6% per annum. In the first half of the 1990s, growth rate accelerated to 2.4% and further to 3.6% in the second half of the decade (Table-1). Bangladesh achieved a GDP growth rate of 6.3% in FY 2004 compared with 5.3% recorded in FY 2003 (Unlocking the Potential 2005:181). The acceleration in the growth of per capita income owed itself both to a slow down in population growth and a sustained increase in the rate of GDP growth.

**Table-1: Growth of Bangladesh economy: 1980-81 - 1999-2000**  
(Annual average growth rates)

Sector	Five-yearly average				Decadal average	
	1980/81- 1984/85	1985/86- 1988/89	1990/91- 1994/95	1995/96- 1999/2000	1995/96- 1999/2000	1990/91- 1999/2000
GDP	3.72	3.74	4.40	5.21	3.73	4.81
Population	2.13	2.19	1.98	1.60	2.16	1.79
Per capita GDP	1.59	1.55	2.41	3.61	1.57	3.01

*Source: Seminar on Accelerating Growth and Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh, Strategy for Pro-poor Growth in Bangladesh, Bureau of Economic Research, University of Dhaka, Mahmud, W. (<http://www.dhakaseminar.com/Wahiduddin%20mahmud.htm>).*

In Bangladesh, although poverty alleviation has featured as a priority developmental goal of all successive Governments, still more than one third of our population is poor. If we consider the statistics of poverty during the post liberation times, it is estimated that people below the poverty line in Bangladesh reached 83% in 1975 (Banglapedia Vol-8:2003:159). In 1981-82, the figure was 74 % and only later, the incidence of poverty started to decline (ibid:159). In the 1990s, nearly half of the population of the country live below the poverty line (Ravallion and Sen 1996:761;

Rahman 2001:1). The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) revealed that the incidence of poverty at the national level in 1996 was 47% and could be reduced to 44.7% in 1999 (Banglapedia Vol-8:2003:160).

By most estimates, Bangladesh has witnessed a remarkable poverty reduction rate of 1.5 percentage point a year since the early nineteen nineties. Two alternative estimates based on the Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) show poverty declining from 58.8% in 1991/92 to 49.8% in 2000, and alternatively, from 49.7% in 1991/92 to 40.2% in 2000 (Table-2). The methodology of the former estimate does not permit an assessment of longer-term poverty trends unlike the later estimate.

**Table 2: Poverty and Inequality in the 1990s and 2000**

Indicator	Estimate 1: BBS/World Bank using 1990s HIES unit-record data		Estimate 2: Sen & Mujeri using HIES longer-term grouped distribution data	
	1991/92	2000	1991/92	2000
<b>Headcount Ratio</b>				
National	58.8	49.8	49.7	40.2
Rural	61.2	53.0	52.9	43.6
Urban	44.9	36.6	33.6	26.4
<b>Gini Index of Inequality</b>				
National	0.259	0.306		
Rural	0.243	0.271	0.255	0.297
Urban	0.307	0.368	0.319	0.379

Sources: 1. For estimate 1, "a) BBS, *Preliminary Report of Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2000*, Dhaka, 2001. b) World Bank 2000, *Poverty in Bangladesh: Building on Progress*, Report No. 24299-BD, World Bank, Washington D.C. June 2002"

2. For estimate 2, "CBN estimates by Sen, B and Mujeri, M., 2002, *Poverty in Bangladesh: Trends, Profiles and Determinants*, Background Paper for I-PRSP, using HIES grouped distribution data for comparability with poverty trends in the eighties and using 1983/84 non-food poverty line as the base year non-food poverty line." (cited in *Unlocking the Potential* 2005:xiii-xiv and pp:11-12).



The observed improvement in the poverty situation also holds true for the distributionally sensitive measures of poverty as revealed by HIES 2000, the poverty gap ratio declined from 17.2 percent to 12.9 percent and the squared poverty gap ratio declined from 6.8 percent to 4.6 percent during 1991/92-2000 period-indicating that the situation of the poorest also improved during the period. Notwithstanding this improvement, however, the proportion of the poorest as a sub-category (defined through a lower poverty line) remains worryingly high at around 20 percent of the population in 2000 (33 percent shown by World Bank lower poverty line estimate, World Bank, 2002-ibid:xiv footnote).

While absolute poverty measured by the head-count index declined faster in urban areas compared to rural areas over the nineties, this was associated with a rise in inequality. Consumption expenditure inequality over the nineties increased from 30.7 to 36.8 percent in urban areas and from 24.3 to 27.1 percent in rural areas. Overall, the Gini index of inequality increased from 0.259 to 0.306 during this period. The growth-poverty link underlying the observed poverty trends shows that Bangladesh has moved from a situation of lower growth with equity having a smaller impact on poverty reduction in the eighties to a situation of higher growth with inequality having a larger impact on poverty reduction in the nineties (ibid:xiv).

Considering the reducing rate of poverty and accelerated GDP and GDP per capita, there is hardly any controversy among the leaders and policy makers in Bangladesh about the urgency of pursuing the objective of poverty reduction in the shortest possible time. Poverty reduction, therefore, has become one of the most important challenges requiring a proper planning to combat it and a high level commitment to implement the plans with skill and integrity (S M Mahfuzur Rahman-Banglapedia Vol-8:2003:160).

## **1.7. Major Actors in Poverty Alleviation**

### **1.7.1. Actors in Government**

Poverty alleviation programme was started in 1955 with help of United Nations. In fact, the Government has initiated the poverty alleviation programme in our country,



which are now flourished by others. The major ministries and financial institutions of the Government, which are engaged in poverty alleviation are as under:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Environment and Forest
- Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
- Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Industries
- Ministry of Jute and Textiles
- Ministry of Land
- Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
- Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
- Ministry of Primary & Mass Education
- Ministry of Religious Affairs
- Ministry of Social Welfare
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- Ministry of Youth & Sports
- Bangladesh Bank
- PKSF
- Social Development Foundation (SDF)
- Bangladesh NGO Foundation
- Grameen Bank
- Sonali, Janata, Agrani, Rupali, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank and other financial institutions.

The objectives of the programmes of the ministries of the Government of Bangladesh are: poverty alleviation through HRD, reduction of population growth, arrangement of universal primary education and human resource development, increase of employment opportunities, attainment of self-sufficiency in food, provision of minimum basic needs of the people, expansion of the technological base, and the enhancement of economic growth and development (Shah Nawaz 2000:55). The poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministries, Divisions and their attached offices and Departments and different Government sponsored financial institutions like Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF), Social Development Foundation (SDF), Bangladesh NGO Foundation, Grameen Bank and other financial institutions have showed a positive impact in improving the economic condition of the poor people of Bangladesh.

### **1.7.2. Role of NGOs and International Organisations:**

Micro-finance has been successful in reducing poverty in Bangladesh to a noticeable extent. Replicating the procedures of the Ministries of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives and Social Welfare, the Grameen Bank and PKSF (responsible for routing resources to NGOs providing micro-finance) considered global models in micro-finance. However, despite the presence of a large number of micro-finance institutions and competition among them, they have not succeeded in reaching the poorest of the poor at a reasonable interest rate. The issue of high interest rate charged by the NGOs has also featured prominently in the recent discourse, noting the burden it imposes on the recipients of such loans. Questions have also been raised about the transparency of many participating institutions (Unlocking the Potential: 71). Even then micro-credit has had considerable success in income raising and reducing poverty of the poor. Among the large number of national NGOs, the name of some organisations involved in the process may be noted:

- Action Aid Bangladesh
- Action on Disability and Development (ADD)
- Assistance for Social Advancement (ASA)
- Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)
- Bangladesh Prötibondhi Kalayan Samity (BPKS)

- CARE, Bangladesh
- CCDB
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- DANIDA
- Jagorani Chakra Foundation
- JAICA
- National Forum of Organisation Working with the Persons with Disabilities (NFOWD)
- Proshika
- Rangpur Dinajpur Rehabilitation Services (RDRS)
- Save the Children Australia (SC Australia)
- Save the Children Sweden (SC Sweden)
- Save the Children UK (SC UK)
- Save the Children USA (SC USA)
- SIDA
- Thengamara Mohila Samabaya Samity (TMSS).

The activities of international organisations like UNDP, UNICEF, WB, ADB, DFID and other donor agencies have gone a long way to reduce the poverty of our people living below the poverty line.

## 1.8. Some Socio-economic-political Achievements by the Government

Whatever may be the cry, it is true that the performance **done by** the Government of Bangladesh is remarkable in socio-economic-political **sectors** compared to other developing nations of the world. The account of progress in **different** sectors show moderate and in some cases accelerated improvements in many **indicators**.



### **1.8.1. Alleviation of Poverty along with Development in associated Sectors**

Firstly, the poverty reduction trends in Bangladesh show a remarkable performance. Bangladesh has made important gains in the fight against poverty. Considering the pre and post liberation poverty, it can be said that Bangladesh today is distinctively out of the shadow of famine. Uniquely for a country facing an extremely vulnerable ecology, Bangladesh has established a credible record of sustained growth within a stable macroeconomic framework. At a comparatively low level of development, it has also earned the distinctions of a major decline in population growth rate and of graduating to the medium human development group of countries by the ranking of the UNDP. Child mortality was halved during the 1990s, life expectancy has increased to 64.9 years, net primary enrolment went up significantly as did women's economic participation, gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary education, and, depletion of tree cover has been reversed rising from 7 to 15 percent through a focus on social forestry (Unlocking the Potential 2005:1). Infrastructurally, a focus on rural roads has succeeded in substantially banishing the curse of remoteness for the majority of the villages. A vibrant non-Government sector as well as private sector bodies and the efforts of the common people have worked side by side with the Government to achieve the above. Anti-poverty innovations such as micro-credit have gone on to win world renown (ibid:1). Starting from 83 percent in 1975 (Banglapedia Vol.:8:2003:159) the poverty line in Bangladesh has now declined to just over one third of its population.

### **1.8.2. Overcoming the Starvation Threat**

Secondly, Bangladesh witnessed a significant success in overcoming the phenomena of mass starvation and the threat of famine syndrome in the backdrop of endemic vulnerability to natural disasters. At the aggregate level, the country has achieved the desirable objective of near self-sufficiency in rice production with a declining cultivated area. Increased disaster preparedness combined with expanded capacity to implement lean-season targeted wage-employment and transfer programmes have played an important role in ensuring minimum food entitlements for the poorest during the times of crisis.

Bangladesh has a robust portfolio of Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNP) which addresses various forms of risk and vulnerability and attempt to reduce poverty through direct transfer of resources to the poor. The portfolio has been responsive to

changing risk assessments and has witnessed a fair degree of programme innovation. Thus, a food rationing system gave way food-for-work programme and subsequently to vulnerable group development and food-for-education programmes as well as incentive programmes such as school stipend which combine safety net objectives with human development objectives. The other safety net programmes are: old age allowance, widowed and distressed women allowance, honorarium for the Distressed Freedom Fighters, allowance for distressed Persons with Disabilities and other programmes of different ministries.

The arguments in favour of Social Safety Nets (SSN) are based on the Government's policy to (a) reduce income uncertainty and vulnerability; (b) maintain a minimum standard of living; and (c) redistribute income from the rich to the poor. The basic operational characteristics of an SSN is that it transfers resources in cash or kind directly to a specified group of people (the poor, women, disabled and disadvantaged groups, old people) through a delivery mechanism with or without certain condition being binding upon the recipients. During the last two decades, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has been pursuing safety net programmes. Expenses for SNPs are about 4.4 percent of public expenditure in 27 SNPs (Unlocking the Potential 2005:117).

### **1.8.3. Population Control and Social Development**

Thirdly, Bangladesh has achieved impressive success in the area of population control. Bangladesh has had a major success in fertility decline and that too at a low stage of economic development. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of women has declined from over 7 children in the mid 1970s to 3.3 children in 2003. The major conduit of this fertility decline has been the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) which has risen from 7 percent in mid-1970s to 54 percent in 2000 (ibid:41). Accordingly, population growth rate has come down from 2.9 per cent per annum in the mid-1970s to 1.5 per cent in 2004. The remarkable feature of this rapid decline was that it had been achieved not only at a low level of income but also at a low level of literacy.



**Table 3: Social Development in Bangladesh: Predicted vs. Actual Values**

Sl.	Social Indicators	Predicted	Actual	Sample Countries
1.	Population Growth Rate (annual percent)	1.897	1.740	181
2.	Total Fertility Rate (births per women)	4.230	2.950	180
3.	Crude Birth Rate	32.050	28.200	179
4.	Crude Death Rate	12.780	8.200	179
5.	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	76.580	48.000	175
6.	Under Five Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	115.80	73.00	175
7.	Life Expectancy at Birth (Female)	57.500	62.700	177
8.	Life Expectancy at Birth (Male)	54.130	61.500	177
9.	Contraceptive prevalence Rate (percent of women aged 15-49)	33.300	53.800	61

*Note:* The term "predicted value" is an estimated value for the 2002 level of national income. The figure is derived from the implied functional relationship between the indicators of interest (as given in the Table) and the log of per capita national income expressed in US dollars. The parameters of the relationship are estimated from the cross-country data.

*Source:* NPFP calculations based on data from the World Bank, 2004, "World Development Indicators, 2004." (ibid:9).

The relatively rapid progress of social development at a low-income level is also indicated by the comparison of predicted values (for a given level of per capita income) with the actual values of social indicators achieved by the country (Table 3). Compared with the predicted values, the actual values recorded have been lower for population growth, infant mortality rate, under five mortality rate, total fertility rate, crude birth rate and crude death rate, higher for the contraceptive prevalence rate and life expectancy at birth for both male and female. Review of actual progress of social indicators against their respective predicted values for the 42 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) suggest that Bangladesh and Sao Tome Principe are the only two countries where actual progress in all of the nine indicators was better than their predicted values.



Such achievements in the above mentioned areas have helped Bangladesh to graduate to the "Medium Human Development League" in 2004. Bangladesh was the only country in the LDC league to attain this status. As of 2004, Sri-Lanka and India were the other two South Asian countries which performed this feat (ibid:9).

#### **1.8.4. Mainstreaming Women in Development Process**

Fourthly, the need for women's advancement and right to achieve gender equality on human right ground is well recognized by the Government of Bangladesh. The Constitution ensures equal rights to all citizens and prohibits discrimination and inequality on the basis of sex and strives to promote social and economic equality. According to the Article 27 of the Constitution of Bangladesh, all citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. Article 28 states that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place. With respect to women, Article 28 further states, "Nothing shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or for the advancement of any backward section of the population." The Government also reconfirmed its commitment to women's advancement and gender equality at the international level. As part of this commitment Government ratified the UN "Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women" (CEDAW) in 1984 and subsequently ratified "Optional Protocol" on CEDAW in the year 2000. Bangladesh is also a signatory to the Beijing Declaration and endorsed its Platform for Action (PFA) in 1995. The Government has further made its commitment towards achieving Millennium Development Goals (ibid: 145-146). Thus Bangladesh has achieved considerable success in mainstreaming women into the development process. Bangladeshi women have played an important role in the success of micro-credit, ready-made garment exports, reducing population growth, increasing child nutrition, and in the spread of primary education.

#### **1.8.5. Increasing Life Expectancy and Reducing Child Mortality**

Fifthly, it is evident from table 3 that the average life expectancy has increased to 62 years which was less than 40 years in the 1960s. The infant mortality

rate also declined from 153 deaths per thousand live births in 1975 to 48 in 2004 (BBS: 2002). The pace of progress in infant and under-five mortality reduction is among the fastest in the developing world.

### **1.8.6. Reducing Child Malnutrition**

Sixthly, Bangladesh has made impressive gains in reducing child malnutrition rates during the last 15 years. According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data, the rate of stunting for children in the age group of 6-71 months, which was 69 percent in 1985-86 dropped to 49 percent in 1999-2000. The proportion of underweight children has gone down from 72 per cent in 1985-86 to 51 per cent in 1999/00. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data of BBS available for the second half of the nineties shows a faster decline. The rate of stunting for the age group of 0-59 months has gone down from 55 to 45 percent during 1996-2000 and, that for underweight, from 56 to 48 per cent during the same period (BBS:2002).

### **1.8.7. Children's Advancement**

Seventhly, the Government of Bangladesh is strongly committed to children's advancement and rights by virtue of its Constitution and through ratification of the UNCRC in 1990, the ILO Convention against the worst forms of child labour in 2000, the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the promotion of child welfare. The National Children Policy of 1994 enunciates the country's commitments made at global conventions and also reflects the domestic initiatives for children. The Government declared 1991-2000 as the Decade of the Girl Child and an Action Plan for the Girl Child was adopted. A National Plan of Action against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (including Trafficking) has been prepared.

On the legal front, the Children Act 1974 and the Children Rules 1976 are the principal legislative instruments governing protection of children and administration of juvenile justice in Bangladesh. The Compulsory Primary Education Act 1990 is a landmark legislation that provides legal guarantee to the child's right to education. Bangladesh renewed its commitments towards children through the Global Movement for



Children (GMC), under which there were mass mobilization and consensus building exercises on the rights of children. The "Say Yes for Children" campaign was very successfully launched in April 2001 (Unlocking the Potential: 2005:149).

### **1.8.8. Advancement in Disabilities Issues**

Eighthly, the Government of Bangladesh has given utmost importance on disabilities issues and has started achieving a moderate success in this respect. The Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are treated as the vulnerable segment of population. The government has formulated National Policy on Disabilities in 1995. In line with said policy the Government has enacted Bangladesh Disability Welfare Act in 2001. The Government has introduced special micro-credit and social security programmes for the PWDs. The National Plan of Action for the PWDs has been formulated as concerted efforts of all Ministries and Departments. Very recently Government has taken initiative to introduce stipend for disabled students for mainstreaming them in general education. The approaches towards handling the disabilities issues have been changed to right based development approach from charity/ welfare approach. Some NGOs have also showed their dedication and commitment to address the disabilities issues. The Government of Bangladesh has proved its solidarity and sincerity for the Persons with Disabilities by taking unique decision in signing and ratifying the United Nation Convention on the Right of the Persons with Disabilities. The signing of optional protocol is now only a matter of time.

### **1.8.9. Rise of NGOs and CSOs**

Ninthly, the advance made by the non-Government organizations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) as alternative delivery mechanisms as well as vocal civic institutions have played an important role in the reversal of fortunes. Social entrepreneurialism through catalyzing the developmental roles of the organizations of the poor such as community based organizations (CBOs) and organizations for the poor (NGOs and CSOs) has been an important strategic element in the poverty reduction

strategy. These organisations have the potential to undertake productive investment and marketing capabilities, which also generate pro-poor employment. These social enterprises have been playing a pragmatic role in developing a pro-poor development agenda in Bangladesh.



GO-NGO collaboration Meeting

### 1.8.10. Democratic Transition

Finally, Bangladesh has achieved a significant progress towards a viable democratic transition. Ensuring free and fair elections through non-partisan caretaker Government has been a noteworthy political innovation in the backdrop of weak democratic institutions in the country.

There have also been important gains in terms of increased political and electoral participation of women, enhanced press freedom, and increasingly active civic movements. Although the process of democratization is yet to take deeper roots, the success achieved so far is remarkable.



## 1.9. Road Map for Accelerated Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh

The principal goal in the economic policy of the Government of Bangladesh is to reduce poverty of the people living below the poverty line in a short period. Developing home-grown Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) along with operational plans suited to the particular circumstances and needs of Bangladesh is thus a task of paramount importance. While implementation of appropriate strategies is no doubt important, the strategies themselves must be derived from a long term vision of a poverty-free society (ibid: 1).

To implement the goal, "Bangladesh faces a triple challenge in building a road map for accelerated poverty reduction: firstly, build on past achievements while preventing slippages; secondly, address the multi-dimensionality of poverty through a strategic choice of priorities; thirdly, unlock the agency potentials of the nation through an optimal mix of public action, private initiatives and community mobilization. The policy triangle on which such a road map broadly rests is constituted of pro-poor economic growth, human development and governance".

In the Roadmap, "there are eight specific avenues - four strategic blocks and four supporting strategies- through which the goal of accelerated poverty reduction would be pursued." These are:

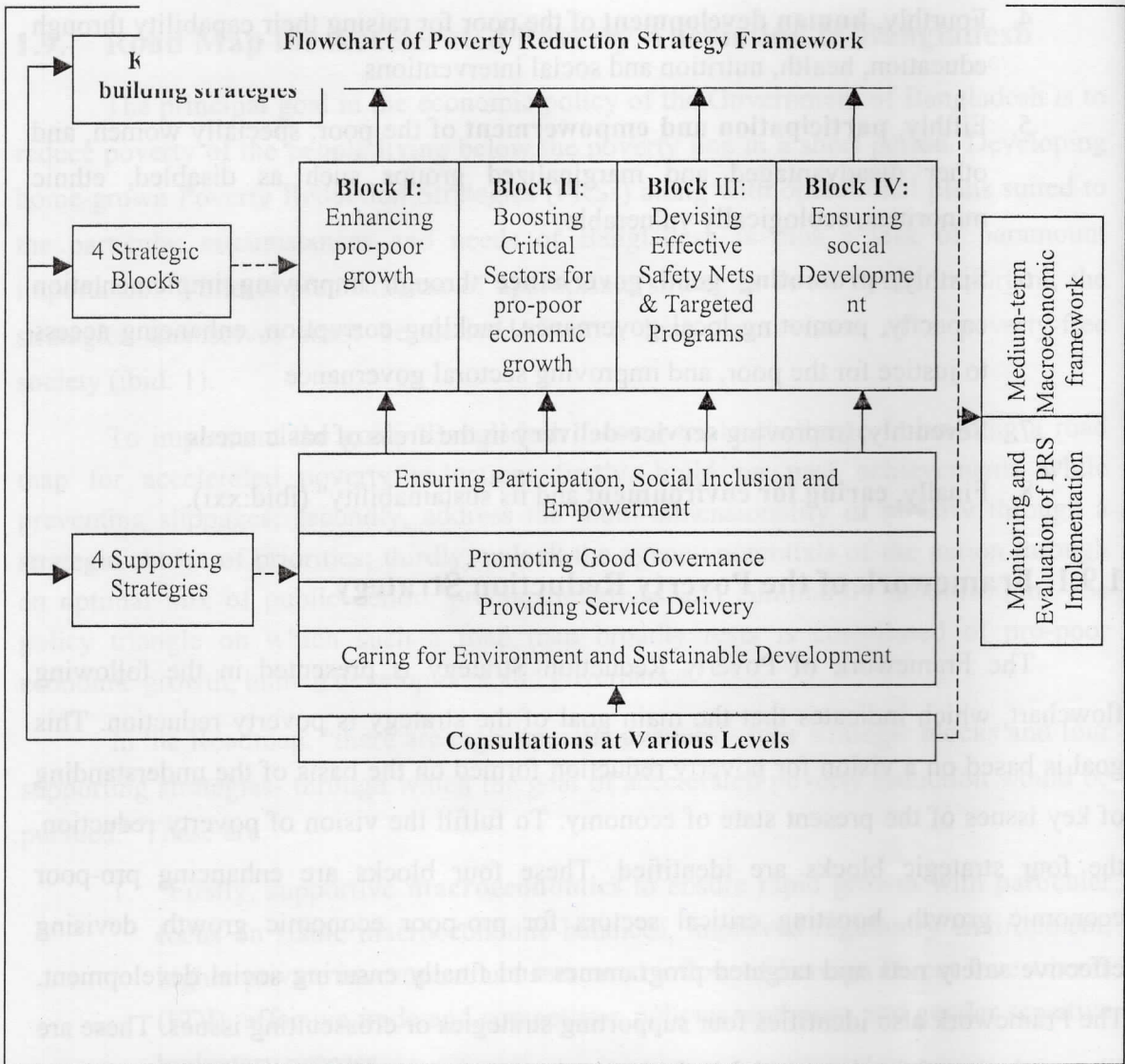
1. "Firstly, supportive **macroeconomics** to ensure rapid growth with particular focus on stable macroeconomic balances, improved regulatory environment, higher private investment and increased inflow of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), effective trade and competition policies, and poor and gender sensitive budgetary process
2. Secondly, choice of **critical sectors** to maximize pro-poor benefits from the growth process with special emphasis on the rural, agricultural, informal and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sectors, improved connectivity through rural electrification, roads, and telecommunications
3. Thirdly, **safety net** measures to protect the poor, especially women, against anticipated and unanticipated income/consumption shocks through targeted and other efforts



4. Fourthly, **human development** of the poor for raising their capability through education, health, nutrition and social interventions
5. Fifthly, **participation and empowerment** of the poor, specially women, and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups such as disabled, ethnic minorities, ecologically vulnerable
6. Sixthly, **promoting good governance** through improving implementation capacity, promoting local governance, tackling corruption, enhancing access to justice for the poor, and improving sectoral governance
7. Seventhly, improving **service-delivery** in the areas of basic needs
8. Finally, **caring for environment** and its sustainability" (ibid:xxi).

### 1.9.1. Framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy

The Framework of Poverty Reduction Strategy is presented in the following flowchart, which indicates that the main goal of the strategy is poverty reduction. This goal is based on a vision for poverty reduction formed on the basis of the understanding of key issues of the present state of economy. To fulfill the vision of poverty reduction, the four strategic blocks are identified. These four blocks are enhancing pro-poor economic growth, boosting critical sectors for pro-poor economic growth, devising effective safety nets and targeted programmes and finally ensuring social development. The Framework also identifies four supporting strategies or crosscutting issues. These are (i) ensuring participation, social inclusion and empowerment of all sections, groups and class of peoples, (ii) promoting good governance by ensuring transparency, accountability and rule of law, (iii) providing service delivery efficiently and effectively, particularly to the poor and (iv) caring for environment and sustainable development on a long term basis.



the "National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction."



## Chapter II

### Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW)

#### 2.1. Concept of Social Welfare

Social welfare is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the amelioration of specific life. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of life is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without discrimination in race, religion, and political belief, economic and social condition. The welfare of all people is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security in the society. From the beginning of the human civilisation the social welfare activities had a dominating role in the society to ensure the rights of people in general and to combat social problems of the people specially the disadvantaged section of the population.

According to Encyclopedia of social work, "The term social welfare denotes the full range of organised activities of voluntary and governmental agencies that seek to prevent, alleviate, or contribute to the solution of recognised social problems, or to improve the well-being of individuals, groups or communities." (Encyclopedia of Social Work 1965: 3).

Other definitions of Social Welfare are, "Social Welfare is the organised system of social service and institutions designed to aid individuals and groups to attain satisfying standard of life and health and personal and social relationship which permit them to develop their full capacities and to promote their well-being in harmony with the needs of their families and the community." (Friedlander 1963:4). "It is an organised activity of all people for all people" (Wilson and Ryland 1949:15).

"Social Welfare is a system of laws, programs, benefits and services which strengthen or assure provisions for meeting social needs recognized as basic for the welfare of the population and for the functioning of the social order. The system is undergoing rapid transformation in response to the transition of our society from scarcity to relative abundance and to the revolution of rising expectation" (Wickenden 1965:VII).

"In our modern industrial society social welfare has become such an important part of our life and culture that an understanding of its fundamental philosophy, structure and functions becomes necessary for every educated citizen" (Friedlander 1963:xiv).

## 2.2. Fundamental Principles of Social Welfare Policy

The Ministry of Social Welfare circulated the "National Social Welfare Policy" in 2006. In the National Social Welfare Policy, there are some fundamental principles which would be guiding in the future action plan of the Ministry.

In the National Social Welfare Policy the following fundamental principles have been incorporated:

- The National Policy for Social Welfare follows the principles of giving the highest degree of dignity and social recognition to every individual. The Policy also recognises the individual's potential and characteristics of every individual or a community as a whole
- The National Policy of Social Welfare considers the behaviour and environment, which is mostly influenced by the society as a whole and does not consider the issues separately. Considering the social commitment and values to solve the social issues, the Policy gives highest preference on social resources, inner force, thought and advice of the community/society with utmost importance
- The Policy recognizes the family as the basic unit of the social bondage and the key actor of the development process. Considering the fact, highest priority has been given to develop family condition of every individual
- The Policy incorporates the inspiration and encouragement to the professional organizations to develop themselves through quality and skill training
- The Policy emphasizes the creation of more Voluntary Social Welfare Organisations along with patronising these Organizations and considers them as the development partners of the Government.

## 2.3. Aims and Objectives of the Social Welfare Policy

"The objective of social welfare is to secure for each human being the economic necessities, a decent standard of health and living conditions, equal opportunities with his fellow citizens, and the highest possible degree of self-respect and freedom of thought and action without interfering with the same rights of others" (Friedlander 1963:5). "The



objective of social welfare is to meet the social, economic, health and recreational needs of all men of the society" (Zastraw 1982: 7). The National Policy has undertaken the following broad aims and objectives:

- To improve the livelihood of the people specially the poorest segment of the population through mass participation and proper and optimum utilization of local resources
- To integrate the socially disadvantaged and derailed delinquent in the mainstream society through correction, rehabilitation and reintegration
- To take up social security programme for the poor and destitute
- To provide services to the poor and destitute patient and also to provide services to the Persons with Disabilities through education, training, skill development and rehabilitation
- To take up the programmes for destitute, orphans, street children, children in difficult circumstances through providing care, protection, education, training, welfare, development and other child related right based activities
- To build up capacity of the personnel of the Department of Social Services and other attached Offices through training and skill development
- To recognise and register the voluntary social welfare organizations associated in the social development activities
- To implement different development projects to address the social issues
- To utilise both internal and external resources.

## **2.4. Social Welfare Activities in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh has an enriched history of social welfare activities from the time immemorial. It is required to know how these activities are administered in our country. We may classify the social welfare activities into two groups:

- a. Social welfare activities run by the Government

- b. Social welfare activities run by the non-Government Organizations.

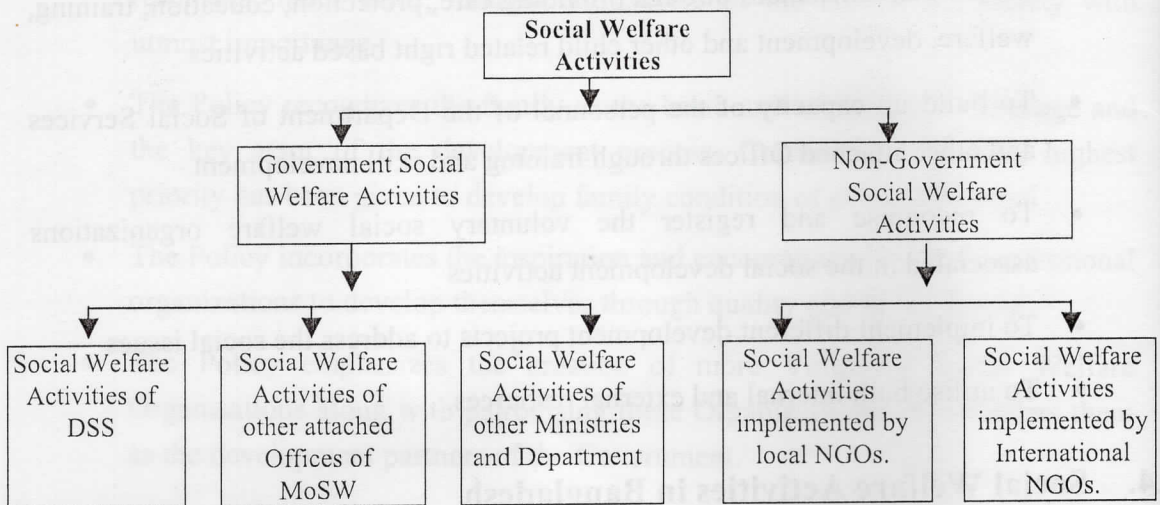
The Government run social welfare activities may be classified in the following manner:

1. Social welfare activities implemented by the Department of Social Services
2. Social welfare activities implemented by other attached Offices of the Ministry of Social Welfare
3. Social welfare activities implemented by the other Ministries and Department of the Government.

On the other hand, Social Welfare activities which are implemented by non-Government Organizations may be divided into two groups:

1. Social welfare activities implemented by the local non-Government Organizations
2. Social welfare activities implemented by the International NGOs

The social welfare activities in Bangladesh may also be shown in the following chart



## 2.5. Introduction to the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW)

All over the world, rapid growth of social problems is well addressed by the respective Government to make a country a welfare state. In Bangladesh the Ministry of Social Welfare is assigned to address the social issues and engaged itself in nation building and development activities of the country. The importance of the activities of



this Ministry in making Bangladesh a welfare state is quite significant as it has been organising and implementing multidimensional activities for welfare and development and to establish rights of the disadvantaged section of the population. This group includes by-passed, poor, distressed, orphan, disabled people and other under-developed segments that constitute more than 33 percent of the population of the country. The Ministry primarily addresses the social problems, which affect all segments of population, but immediate impact is found on the poor.



Policy making meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare

The Ministry firmly believes that positive impact of economic growth on poverty reduction has remained limited due to less development of surrounding factors. With this end-in-view, the Ministry of Social Welfare has planned and designed a comprehensive package programme to combat the poverty and develop human resources through capacity build up. The poverty reduction programmes of the Ministry have specially designed instructions, techniques and facilities which meet the needs of the poor.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has a glorious past to address the social problems. At the time of creation of the National Social Council in 1956, the Ministry of Social Welfare was attached with the Ministry of Health, Labour, Manpower and Social Welfare. Again the name of the Ministry was renamed as the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women Affairs which continued up to 1989. In 1989 Ministry of Social Welfare was emerged as a separate and an independent Ministry.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has been implementing its programme in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Management of Social Transformation (MOST) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and other development strategies to address the social issues.

**The strategies are:**

- To implement of the programme through target groups participation
- To give importance on the opinions of the target groups at the time of decision making
- To give proper importance of the dignity of the individual and family
- To ensure input supply
- To evaluate the feedback result
- To take felt need new plans and implement the plans properly.

At present the Ministry of Social Welfare follows some strategies to address the social issues arisen out of poverty, degradation of social norms and values, disaster, natural calamities, physical, mental and social disorder. To address these problems the Ministry is implementing its functions including the poverty reduction and human resource development programmes through its departments and the attached offices. The Departments/ Organizations under the Ministry of Social Welfare are:

- a) The Department of Social Services (DSS)
- b) Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council (BNSWC)
- c) Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF)
- d) Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Trust.

The social welfare activities of the Ministry of Social Welfare are implemented in four tiers of administration, which are as follows:

1. Central/Ministry level Administration
2. Department/Organisation level Administration
3. District level Administration
4. Upazila level Administration



## 2.6. Functions of the Ministry of Social Welfare

1. To formulate National Policy on social welfare
2. To formulate policies on poverty reduction, social security, social safety net, social protection, human resource development and other social issues
3. To identify the needs and problems of the bypassed segment of population
4. To promote the activities related to the socio-economic development of bypassed segment of population
5. To implement the Laws and Acts relating to the Ministry of Social Welfare i.e. The Bangal Vagrancy Act, 1943 The Orphange and Widow Sadon Act, 1944, The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960 (Ammended in 1964), Control and Registration of Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance 1961, The Children's Act 1974 and the Children's Rules 1976, The Special Opportunity for the Women in Jail Act 2006 and other related laws
6. To implement the programmes to address the social issues
7. To oversee the management of collateral and interest free micro-credit for the poor and destitute
8. To oversee the management of the homes for vagrants, destitute, orphanages and abandoned babies, children at risk and street children and their rehabilitation
9. To help running the programmes for welfare and development of the children in accordance with the Constitution, National Children Policy, children related laws and UNCRC.
10. To oversee and monitor care, protection, after care services to released beggars, vagrants, juvenile delinquents, women and adolescent girls socially disadvantaged girls and women and their children who are in conflict with the law.

11. To ensure that After Care Services for released prisoner, probationer and paroled persons are provided
12. To ensure implementation of social security /safety net /social protection/ social assistance programmes through providing allowances and stipend
13. To ensure that care and protection of the rights and privileges of the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in accordance with the Constitution, National Policy, Laws and UN Convention
14. To help implement the welfare and development programmes for the PWDs
15. To help provide education, training and rehabilitation of the PWDs
16. To ensure implementation of the programmes for assistance the poor patients
17. To oversee the registration and control of the voluntary social welfare agencies
18. To provide grants-in-aids to the voluntary social welfare agencies
19. To communicate and liaison with states, international organisations in the field of social welfare and sign Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the related matter
20. To make an inquiry in any issues related to the ministry and procure statistics/ information/ data
21. To ensure conducting research, survey and publication
22. To collect non-tax revenue of the Ministry
23. To carry out the advocacy programmes to address social issues
24. To control the activities of the Department of Social Services
25. To control the activities of the National Council of Social Welfare
26. To control the activities of the Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF)
27. To control the activities of the Sheikh Zayeed Bin Sultan Al-Nahian Trust



28. To observe National and International Days on social issues related to the Ministry
29. To implement any other programmes assigned by the Government.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has been working hard for the development of human resources to cover all aspects of social issues by implementing package programme, which is intensively involved in the process of poverty alleviation. In the diversified programmes of Ministry of Social Welfare, the reduction of poverty through micro credit is the most important sector, followed by social safety net sector, employment sector, human resource development sector, and finally the service delivery and health sector programmes. Therefore, the Ministry of Social Welfare addresses many strategic agenda of anti-poverty policies of the Government as laid down in the provisions of the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction Programme.

## Chapter III

### Department of Social Services (DSS)

#### 1. Introduction to the Department of Social Services (DSS)

The Ministry of Social Welfare depends mainly upon the Department of Social Services (DSS) to implement its activities in the field level. It is one of the most important Government organisations. The DSS is the prime and largest department of the Ministry of Social Welfare. The manpower of this Department is more than 12000. It is executing the programmes by utilizing limited resources for poverty reduction, skill development and human resource development of the by-passed, disadvantaged, unemployed, landless, orphans, distressed, vagrants, socially disadvantaged, physically disabled and mentally retarded, poor helpless patients, juvenile delinquents etc. To combat the increasing socio-economic problems of the country new programmes are taken up by the DSS every year. At present, it is implementing as good as 47 diversified poverty reduction, human resource development and welfare programmes and activities. Since its inception in 1961, the DSS has started functioning with the programmes of human resource development and poverty reduction. The programmes of the DSS which have undertaken much earlier are now in conformity with the provisions of the Roadmap for Accelerated Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) of the Government and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



The main objective of the department is to alleviate the poverty of hardcore poor through human resource development and to organise the poorest segment of people and aware them about their rights, problems and requirements and building up capacity for their self-sustainability.



Office building Department of Social Services.

### 3.2. Functions of the Department of Social Services

The specific activities of the DSS are:

1. Administration and capacity buildup of 12000 officers and staffs (appointment, training, promotion, transfer, posting, leave, pension, management of office and vehicles, disciplinary action, audit and accounts, etc.)
2. To provide facilities to the targeted people to improve their skill and efficiency with a view to self employment and thereby reduction of poverty
3. To increase awareness amongst the target group of people and train and organise them to develop human resource

4. To develop the target group of people, such as distressed, helpless, orphans, acid and other burnt people and disabled to build up capacity and rehabilitate and reintegrate them in the society
5. Management of collateral and interest free micro-credit for the poor and destitutes
6. To implement social security /safety net /social protection/ social assistance programmes through providing allowances and stipend
7. To provide statutory guardianship of the children declared as abandoned
8. To run the Government Children Homes to develop human resource
9. To manage the Homes for vagrants, destitute, orphanages and abandoned babies, children at risk and street children
10. To provide capitation grants to the non-Government registered orphanages
11. To run the programmes for welfare and development of the children in accordance with the Constitution, National Children Policy, children related laws and UNCRC
12. To provide care, protection, after care services to released beggars, vagrants, juvenile delinquents, women and adolescent girls socially disadvantaged girls and women and their children who are in conflict with the law
13. To provide after care services for probationer, released prisoner and paroled persons
14. To care and protect the rights and privileges of the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in accordance with the Constitution, National Policy, Laws and UN Convention.
15. To implement the welfare and development programmes for the PWDs
16. To run Education, Training and Rehabilitation Services for the PWDs



17. To implement the Laws and Acts relating to the Ministry of Social Welfare i.e. the Bangal Vagrancy Act, 1943 The Orphange and Widow Sadon Act, 1944, The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960 (Ammended in 1964), Control and Registration of Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance 1961, The Children's Act 1974 and the Children's Rules 1976, The Special Opportunity for the Women in Jail Act 2006 and other related laws
18. To organise and run Community Development Programmes both in urban and rural areas
19. To organise programmes for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency
20. To control and sanction of the funds in respect of all programmes under the DSS
21. To conduct survey and research and organise seminar etc. on social services and related matters
22. To establish link between the administrative and other ministries, planning commission and other National and International agencies
23. To formulate policies, plans and undertake projects in respect of future need
24. To observe the National and International days related to social issues
25. To implement any other functions assigned by the Government.

The DSS is headed by one Director General, three Directors and a number of Additional Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors. The functions of the DSS have expanded to a great extent and for that matter the decentralization is required in the Divisional level. The number of Directors and Additional Directors should also be increased immediately for proper functioning of the activities.

### **3.3. Programme Synopsis of the DSS**

As one of the leading and key development departments of the Government the DSS runs 47 categories of programmes and activities, which are divided into 10 groups. These are directly and indirectly involved in poverty alleviation and human resource development programmes. They are as under:

### 3.3.1. Poverty Alleviation through Human Resource Development

SL.	Name of Programmes/ Projects	Number of Units	Number of Beneficiaries/ output
1.	Urban Community Development (UCD) Programme	80 units (all urban areas)	2,27,630 persons since inception
2.	Rural Social Services (RSS) Programme	All Upazilas	9.2 million persons since inception
3.	Implementation of National Population Programme through Rural Mother's Centre (RMC)	318 Upazilas	3.9 million persons since inception
4.	Rehabilitation Programmes for the Acid Burnt Women and Handicapped People	All over the country	3,14,880 persons since inception
5.	Micro-credit programme of Abashan/ Ashrayan Project of the Prime Minister's Office	180 Upazila	1,06,540 persons since inception

### 3.3.2. Poverty Alleviation through Social Safety Net (Security and Protection) Programmes

6.	Old Age Allowance Programme	All over the country	1.7 million persons per year
7.	Allowances for the Insolvent Persons with Disabilities	All over the country	200,000 persons per year
8.	Honorarium (Allowance) for the Distressed Freedom Fighters	All over the country	1,00,000 persons per year
9.	Stipend Programme for the Students with Disabilities.	All over the country	-----



### 3.3.3. Social Integration Programmes (Poverty Alleviation through Human Resource Development)

10.	Sarkari Shishu Paribar (Government Children Homes)	85	10,200 children per year
11.	Financial Assistance to the non-Government orphanages	2771	42,000 orphans
12.	Pre-Vocational Training Programme in the Orphanages	5	1250 children since inception
13.	Baby Homes	6	525 children per year
14.	Day-Care Centre	1	50 babies per year
15.	Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Destitute Children	3	750 children per year
16.	Socio-economic Training Centres for the Women	2	16,404 persons since inception
17.	Vocational Training and Production Centre for the Destitute Women	1	50 trainees per year
18.	Protection of Children at Risk (PCAR) Project	9	82013 children

### 3.3.4. Prevention of Social Disintegration Programmes (Poverty Alleviation Programmes)

19.	Juvenile Development Centres	3	500 persons per year
20.	Probation and Aftercare Services	All over the country	17,863 persons since inception
21.	Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Vagrants (Sharkari Ashroy Kendro)	6	1900 persons per year
22.	Safe Custody for Women and Adolescent Girls (Safe Home)	6	300 persons per year
23.	Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Socially Disadvantaged Girls	6	600 persons per year
24.	Programme for Socially Disadvantaged Girls (Sex Workers)	6	3830 persons

### 3.3.5. Disability Related Programmes

25.	Integrated Education Programme for the Visually Impaired	64	640 students per year
26.	School for the Visually Impaired	5	240 students per year
27.	School for the Hearing Impaired	7	270 students per year
28.	Institution for the Mentally Retarded Children	1	50 students per year
29.	Employment, Rehabilitation and Training Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH)	1	105 persons per year
30.	Braille Press	1	10,753 books since inception
31.	Plastic Goods Production Centre	1	Number of disabled employee 78
32.	Mineral Water Plant run by the Persons with Disabilities	1	Number of disabled employee 46
33.	Artificial Limb Production Centre	1	1308 limbs since inception
34.	National Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired	1	50 trainees per year
35.	Training Centre for Physically Handicapped	4	2727 students since inception
36.	Job Placement Services	1	593
37.	9 point short and long term programmes.		



### 3.3.6. Welfare and Service Delivery Programmes

38.	Hospital/ Medical Social Services Programme	87	1,98,05,152 patients since inception
39.	Financial Assistance for Treatment and Rehabilitation of the Burn-victims	All over the country	4759 burn-victims

### 3.3.7. Human Resource Development and Capacity Building through Training

40.	National Academy of Social Services (NASS)	1	8,220 trainees since inception
41.	Regional Training Centres	6	7,802 trainees since inception

### 3.3.8. Community Empowerment Programmes through Voluntary Works

42.	Registration, Control and Empowerment of the Voluntary Organizations	about 48000 organisations	-
43.	GO-NGO Collaboration and Coordination with the DSS	-	-

### 3.3.9. Research and Publications

44. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

45. Arrangement of Publication, Publicity, Seminar, Workshop and Advocacy Programmes

46. Preparation/Amendment of Law, Rules, Principles, Manuals, etc.

### 3.3.10. Poverty Alleviation through Implementation of Annual Development Plan (ADP)

#### 3.3.10.1. Development Projects

a.	Recently Implemented Development Projects	37	-
b.	Ongoing Development Projects	19	-
c.	Future Plan for the Medium Term Macroeconomic Framework	16	-

### 3.4. Social Security Programmes undertaken by the Ministry of Social Welfare but later transferred to other ministries.

The following programmes have been initiated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, e.g.; (i) Allowances for Widow and Husband Deserted Women, (ii) Allowances for Distressed Freedom Fighters, (iii) Allowances for Victim of Natural Disaster. Later these programmes have been transferred to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management. However, the allowances of Distressed Freedom Fighters are still disbursed by the field level officers of the DSS. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) of this programme is the Director General of the DSS and is responsible for proper execution of the programme. So, it is included in the programmes of the DSS.

#### 4.1. Urban Community Development (UCD) Programme

##### Background

The Urban Community Development (UCD) Programme is the oldest programme of the DSS. Initially community based social work has started with this programme. Just after British regime in 1947, the country faced huge social problems especially in urban areas. A high degree of poverty, ill-health, ill-literate population, the social influx of refugees from India, lack of employment opportunities and social prejudices were the serious problems for the urban population. Problems of housing, sanitation, health, education, recreation and other social problems were created in the communities, making people poorer and more vulnerable. The planners and social workers aimed to solve the resultant problems of poverty, dependency, and ill-health by community development. To improve the living conditions, the Government initiated social welfare programmes especially in urban areas which were known as the Urban Community Development Programme.

With such a situation prevailing in the country, the Government in 1947 for the first time requested the UN to set up a Technical Assistance Project in the social welfare sector. The UN expert Miss Lady and Mr. Davidson arrived in 1952, made a field survey, recommended 3 months long job training courses. Another 2 UNO experts Mr. Smith and Miss Anna Fall accepted the training programme with 3 officials. The first batch of students started at the Bangladesh Academy in May 1953. Among them Mr. Faruk Hossain, Secretary and Mrs. Mohammod Reza, Social Welfare Officer were prominent and supervised by the employees of the DSS.



## **Chapter IV**

### **Description of the Programmes Run by the DSS**

#### **4.1. Poverty Alleviation Programmes**

Alleviation of poverty of the people living under the poverty line is the prime responsibility of the government. From the nineteen fifties the social welfare sector started poverty reduction programmes providing micro-credit to the poorer section of population. Along with the provision of micro-credit, many other objectives of the programmes, for example, training, family planning, social forestry etc. were incorporated to make the people self-reliant. The most vulnerable among the poor are the disabled persons, who also came under the poverty alleviation programmes. The programmes for the poverty alleviation of the DSS are narrated below.

##### **4.1.1. Urban Community Development (UCD) Programme**

###### **Background**

The Urban Community Development (UCD) Programme is the oldest programme of the DSS. Initially community based social work has started with this programme. Just after British regime in 1947, the country faced huge social problems specially in urban areas. A high degree of poverty, illiteracy, ill-health, limited resources, the great influx of refugees from India, lack of employment opportunity and social prejudice were the common problems for the nation. Problems of housing, sanitation, health, education, recreation, and unemployment problems were cropped up in communities, making people poorer and more distressed. The planners and social thinkers could foresee the resultant proliferation of lawlessness, dependency, and its effect on economic development. To overcome these problems social thinkers initiated social service activities specially in urban areas which was shaped as the Urban Community Development Programme.

With such socio-economic condition prevailing in the country, the Government in 1952 for the first time requested the UN to take up a Technical Assistance Project in the social service sector. The UN expert Miss Lucky and Mr. Dumpson arrived in 1952, made a brief survey, recommended 3 months long job training courses. Another 2 UNO experts Mr. Southy and Miss Anama Toll organised the training programme with 3 officers and 3 assistants at Bardwan House (now Bangla Academy) in May 1955. Among them Mr. Enamul Haq Chowdhury and Mrs. Rokshana Reza, Social Welfare Organiser are remembered and appreciated by the employees of the DSS.

Thus the UCD Programme was first introduced in the country under the Urban Community Development Board. The first pilot project of the Urban Community Development Programme started functioning at Kayettully in Dhaka. Kayettully was selected as a demonstration project for experimenting Community Development activities on self-help basis. In 1957 the second Community Development Project came into existence at Gopibagh, Dhaka. Comparatively this community was culturally, literally and economically more progressive. The settlers were mostly immigrants from India. Third Urban Community Development project was started at Mohammadpur in 1958. Non-Bengali refugees from India settled down here. This project was totally different from the other two projects. People lived in shacks and huts, built without any plan. There was not even a primary school for the children. People were very poor and illiterate and they were mostly day labourers and beggars.

Later the UCD Programme has brought about socio-economic development through poverty alleviation, skill development, awareness building, and employment generation of the disadvantaged/ by-passed groups (such as, poor and destitute women, children in difficult circumstances, unemployed youth, the handicapped etc.) living in the urban areas. This Programme has served as a useful strategy through which the disadvantaged people in the urban areas are organised in solving their problems utilising group efforts with the maximum use of available resources. Through reactivation of people's self-confidence, development of their personal and income capabilities and their participation in community activities, this Programme has helped to alleviate poverty of the poor of urban areas to a great extent.



One disabled girl is receiving training from UCD programme in Cox's Bazar.



The Community Development Programme has gained wide appreciation from both the private and the Government sector, because of its various activities like family planning, skill training and adult education. This led to the birth of 12 more Urban Community projects during 1959-60. By the year 1982 a total of 80 UCD units were established in the country. However, the Government policy had changed later and the number of UCD units was reduced to 43 units. The DSS has extended its services to 80 units again in 80 towns of the country in the year 2002.

## **Aims and Objectives**

In accordance with the Government policy, the under-mentioned aims and objectives of the UCD Programme have been determined:

1. To identify the problems and needs through survey
2. To collect the correct information for planning and action.
3. To provide interest free micro-credit for self employment of the poor
4. To improve the environmental condition of the slum dwellers
5. To provide vocational training facilities for the slum dwellers
6. To organise programme for children in difficult circumstances for their education, health, training and socio-economic development
7. To provide primary medicare and family planning assistance
8. To motivate the immigrants from village to go back to their paternal houses
9. To co-ordinate among the slum dwellers and the service oriented organisations/ institutions
10. To supervise activities of urban voluntary agencies registered with the DSS
11. To educate the beneficiaries in socio-economic activities
12. To build up local leadership and form Project Co-ordination Council
13. To initiate welfare programme making a balance between need and resources
14. To promote co-ordination between groups by facilitating inter-group relationship



## **Project Co-ordination Council**

Each UCD Programme has a Project Co-ordination Council which is registered with the DSS. The main function of the Council is to help the UCD Programme to promote the activities and mobilise the local resources. To ensure the community leaders' participation in the UCD Programme, the Project Co-ordination Council is formed in a democratic way. Voluntary social workers have the rights to enter into the Project Co-ordination Council. The Co-ordination Council accumulates its fund by collecting members' subscription, donation and grants received from the National Social Welfare Council of the Ministry of Social Welfare and other sources.

## **Activities of the UCD Programme**

1. Identification of target family/groups through socio-economic survey
2. Formation of groups with the target people
3. Distribution of micro-credit for income generation activities
4. Motivation towards habit of savings
5. Organise vocational training for self-employment
6. Group meeting to take steps on the following issues:
  - Literacy programme
  - Family planning
  - Primary health care/nutrition
  - Immunization programme
  - Preparation of oral saline
  - Use of safe drinking water
  - Use of water sealed latrine/ sanitary latrine
  - Social forestry.

### Box 1. Success Story 1

#### Benefit from the UCD programme: an individual's experience

Mrs. Aklima Banu, a resident of Barisal town used to live in a slum. She expressed her past sorrows. Her husband was a van driver and earned daily wage to run his family in a very poor condition. Mrs. Aklima heard that there was a project which lends money to the slum dwellers. Accordingly she approached to the Social Welfare Officer of Barisal Urban Development Community Programme. From the Programme she took a loan of Taka 3000/-, which was interest free. But she had to pay 10% service charge (used as revolving fund) and to save money for herself according to the terms and conditions of the loan which she deposited regularly. Within a span of 10 years time, Mrs. Aklima was able to establish a small grocery shop with a capital of Taka 30,000/-. After another 10 years, Mrs. Aklima's shop has turned into a big grocery shop and she owns a land in the suburban area of the city which costs Taka 5,00,000/-. Now her family is a solvent one and she is very grateful to the UCD Programme of Barisal.

#### Achievement of Urban Development Community Programme up to June 2007

Sl. No.	Component	Achievement
1.	Total amount of fund	- Taka 63.2 Million
2.	Total amount of reinvested fund (cumulative)	- Taka 94.4 Million
3.	Number of families received micro-credit	- 44167 Families
4.	Amount of group savings	- Taka 3.88 Million
5.	Recovery rate	- 89%
6.	Number of beneficiaries	- 2,20,835 Persons
7.	Number of trainees	- 1,00,915 Persons



## 4.1.2. Rural Social Services (RSS) Programme

### Background

Bangladesh is basically an agricultural country and her majority people live in rural areas. The development and prosperity of Bangladesh virtually depends on the development of this large segment of population. But people lacking in land, finance and other assets do not have the opportunities to participate in development works and thus remain deprived. No development can be meaningful, long lasting and self-generating unless the majority of the population contribute and share the benefit of development. Empowerment of total human resource and capacity building are essentially prerequisites of the comprehensive development of the nation.



Beneficiaries of RSS Programme.

These essentially call for a need for a multipurpose and comprehensive rural development programme like Rural Social Services (RSS) Programme. As a part of comprehensive development approach, the RSS Programme organises small, marginal and other farmers as well as the poor occupational groups in the rural areas.

The RSS Programme is particularly designed for the vast majority of by-passed groups to organise them and to build their capacity to fight against poverty, illiteracy, ill health, unemployment and the population explosion. The direct target groups of the RSS are the children, the youths, the women, the landless families and other disadvantaged groups including Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) who do not directly get benefit from other development activities in the rural areas.

The RSS project was launched as a pilot project in 1974 in 19 selected Thanas of 19 Districts. In 1984, Upazila Social Service Offices were established in all Upazilas. Later on under these offices, the RSS Programme was introduced all over the country.

### **Administration of the RSS**

Under the DSS, each RSS Programme is headed by one Upazila Social Services Officer, a professional person who is responsible for project management, administration and supervision. He is assisted by one Field Supervisor, a good number of Union Social Workers and other employees. At present the number of Union Social Workers has been increased and there is one Union Social Worker for each two Union Parishads. In the Upazila level, there is a Project Implementation Committee (PIC) to monitor the implementation of the programme and to provide necessary guidance. This Committee is headed by Upazila Nirbahi Officer and there are other officers of major nation building departments as members. The Upazila Social Services Officer acts as the Member-Secretary of the PIC. The RSS activities are supervised by the Deputy Director and Assistant Director in the District and by the Director (Programme) and the Director General of the DSS from the Head Quarter.

### **Objectives**

The main objective of the project is to promote comprehensive rural development with special emphasis on assisting the disadvantaged population. Efforts are also taken to motivate and organise them and help them to develop their social, functional and productive capabilities through group formation. Integrated multi-dimensional approach for human resource development, creation of opportunity for productive employment as a means for reduction of rural poverty, population control and family planning and increased people's participation in planning and implementation of development scheme are some of the major objectives of the Programme.



## **The specific objectives include**

1. Identifying the target people (the disadvantaged and by passed community groups) through socio-economic survey with a view to bring them within the orbit of development activities of the Programme
2. Organising the target people identified through the survey into functional groups, create awareness and help promote leadership and provide opportunities for their active participation in development activities
3. Creating self-employment and increase income by giving micro-credit, motivating savings and income generating and economically profitable activities
4. Providing informal education on health, nutrition, mother and child care, sanitation, use of safe drinking water, motivation on family planning, social afforestation, literacy etc. for the improvement of the living standard of the people
5. Establishing democratically functioning Village Based Institutions (VBI) of different target population and form Project Village Committee (PVC) and Village Executive Committees to identify the problems, needs and resources of the village and plan and implement development activities to improve their socio-economic conditions
6. Providing skill training for increasing the income capabilities and productivity of unemployed and underemployed persons
7. Motivating the target people, particularly the fertile couple to keep the size of their families small with a view to raising the standard of their life and sustaining the same by adopting family planning practices.

## **Process of Group Formation**

The target groups are formed by the families living below the poverty level, who are identified by the socio-economic survey, considering the location of the houses and socio-cultural homogeneity of the target families. A target group is represented in the Project Village Committee by its group leader. The PVC and the target group are being closely organised and monitored to build them as Village Based Institutions to continue the project activities for sustainable development of the target people.

## **Credit Delivery System**

The majority of the rural poor do not have access to financial institutions and many depend on NGOs and traditional money lenders, who charge very high percentage of interest. In order to assist these needy families the fund is provided to increase their income and improve their social conditions.

The DSS is providing initial capital to promote income generating activities. Credit/loans are sanctioned to the target group members on the basis of fulfillment of 12 group activities. After fulfillment of 12 group activities, group members would be eligible to receive loans from the fund. The fund (seed money) is recycled among the target families as Revolving Fund (RF). A group member may get the micro-credit up to three times. The RF creates opportunities for self-employment by motivating the villagers to activate their unused or underused individual or family labour. The target group creates awareness among them through motivational and functional education programme and helps promote leadership and provide opportunities for their active participation in sustainable development activities.

## **Work Strategies**

1. Formation of functional groups is made for participation in preparing the development programmes with special emphasis on socio-economic schemes
2. Family remains as a unit of development and therefore main focus is given to family development of the functional groups
3. The DSS workers serve as catalysts/agents with other nation building agencies working in the respective areas.

## **Activities run under the RSS Programme**

1. Fix up number of target family through socio-economic survey
2. Formation of target group
3. Create habit of savings for target group members
4. Interest free loan up to Taka 5000/- per family engaged in self employment



5. Various types of vocational training for the target group members
6. Adoption of family planning measures
7. Motivation for Primary health care/nutrition
8. Health and sanitation programme (Mother and Child Health & Immunization)
9. Motivation for informal education/literacy programme
10. Use of safe drinking water
11. Distribution and use of water sealed latrine
12. Social afforestation, etc.

### **Increase in income per capita**

In the RSS programme the pattern of living is influenced by level of income generation of the beneficiaries. To make a comparative analysis of the impact of the project on the income generating activities, data on income of sample beneficiaries (before and after joining the RSS programme) have been collected from the village Aminpur of Monirampur Upazila under Jessore District. These data have been processed and analyzed. The following table gives a trend of increase in income of beneficiaries after they have joined the RSS Programme.

**Table: 4 Distribution of beneficiaries by monthly income before and after joining the RSS programme**

Range of income	Before joining		After joining	
	Number	%	Number	%
No response	72	8.0	24	2.7
Up to 500	160	17.8	110	12.2
501-1000	280	31.1	167	18.6
1001-2000	292	32.4	362	40.2
2001-3000	72	8.0	175	19.4
3001-4000	14	1.5	41	4.6
4001-5000	5	0.6	13	1.4
Above 5000	5	0.6	8	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It is seen from the table that  $(17.8 + 31.1) = 48.9\%$  of the beneficiaries had an income level of up to Taka 1000 per month before joining the programme. The percentage of population belonging to this income group has gone down to  $(12.2 + 18.6) = 30.8\%$  after their involvement in the programme. The reduction in percentage in this group explains that the size of population in the low income group has reduced by about 18%. The table shows that 32.4% of the beneficiary families had monthly income up to Taka 2000. The beneficiaries in this group increased to 40.2% after joining the programme, which indicates that in this income group percentage of population increases. Only 8% of the beneficiary families had an income level of Taka 2001 to Taka 3000 per month before joining the programme, where there has been a marked increase i.e. 19.4% of the beneficiaries have now an income between Taka 2001 to Taka 3000. The table shows that percentage of people in upper groups is increasing.

Again before the programme started only 1.5% respondent families had an income between Taka 3001 to Taka 4000. The situation has improved three times for this income group. After involvement in the programme 4.6% of the beneficiaries have now income in this range. Finally 1.2% of the beneficiaries had an income level of above Taka 4000 per month. An improvement has taken place in this group too. After implementation of the RSS project the income of beneficiaries has increased to a significant level showing the overall impact of the programme to be positive and very significant.





## Box 2. Success Story 2

### The tale of Jyoti Rani: a beneficiary of RSS micro-credit programme (Dainik Janata, 05-08-2007)

Jyoti Rani, a symbol of striver who has ultimately conquered the poverty with her devotion and commitment. Jyoti Rani of Shercole under Singra Upazila of Natore District led her life with extreme poverty and starvation. She had to run her family with her ailing husband and 5 children in a deplorable condition due to her pecuniary insolvency. But Jyoti Rani did not bow down to the poverty with her ego and strong personality. She borrowed Taka 2,000/- from a local organization and started small business of chanachur selling. Observing the poor financial position, Ms. Razia Khatun, Union Social Worker of the Department of Social Services proposed Jyoti Rani to receive a fund from Upazila Social Services Office of Singra. After receiving Taka 5,000/- from Upazila Social Services Office, Jyoti Rani started her business in a wider way. With the help of her son Goutam, Jyoti has started a grocery shop and earns a lot which is sufficient to maintain her family. She has arranged to marry her daughters with solvent bride grooms. Local Upazila Social Services Officer and Mr. Noni Gopal Shaha, Deputy Director, District Social Services Office, Natore has given sufficient amount of loan and counselling to change the socio-economic condition of Jyoti. Now Jyoti Rani has become a model who can change her fate if she is sincere and committed to her profession. Jyoti Rani says if anybody works hard and apply intelligence, he/she would be able to overcome his/her barrier. She has able to win from the vicious circle of poverty with the co-operation of the DSS and she is obliged to the DSS for its micro-credit programme.



Jyoti Rani

## Achievement of Rural Social Services (RSS) up to June 2007

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Achievement</u>
1.	Total amount of fund disbursed	- Taka 1583.01 Million
2.	Total amount of reinvested fund (cumulative)	- Taka 4737.45 Million
3.	Number of families received micro-credit	- 2.01 Million Families
4.	Amount of group savings	- 52.00 Million
5.	Recovery rate	- 90%
6.	Number of beneficiaries through micro-credit	- 10.05 Million Persons
7.	Number of trainees	- 1.46 Million Persons
8.	Number of beneficiaries through social activities	- 3.16 Million Persons
9.	Number of tree plantation	- 1.15 Million Saplings

### 4.1.3. Implementation of National Population Programme through Rural Mother's Centre (RMC)

#### Background

It is needless to say that a large number of rural women of our country are illiterate, neglected and backward both socially and economically. As stated above, about 33% people of the country are living below the poverty line. Women constitute about 50% of the population, so it is obvious that about 33% or more of females are also living below poverty line. They are dependent on the male member of their families. The



outcome of the desired level of the national progress will not be possible, unless this vast segment of the population is effectively involved in development activities. Therefore, the Bangladesh Government has given much emphasis on poverty alleviation programme by developing rural infrastructure specially for the rural poor women.

Since 1975, within the broad framework of the population policy, several ministries including the Ministry of Social Welfare have been assigned with population related motivation tasks and responsibilities through developing womens' programme for income generation activities. Such a population policy strategy was based on the recommendations of the Bucharest Population Conference 1974. The Conference stressed on the improvement in health condition of women as one of the prerequisites for fertility decline. Following the recommendations, Government of Bangladesh undertook three women's programmes e.g: i) Rural Mother's Centre (RMC) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, ii) Women's Vocational Training Programme for Population Activities (WVTPA) of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, iii) Rural Womens' Cooperatives (RWC) of Bangladesh Rural Development Board of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division.



RMC Programme

The National Population Programme through Rural Mother's Centre (RMC) is an important poverty alleviation programme of the DSS specially designed for rural women. The project has been implemented through 6 phases in collaboration with the RSS Programme of the Department. With the financial assistance of the World Bank and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), a diversified project under family welfare sector, is implemented in order to integrate the rural women into the development activities including family planning and other development activities. The RMC programme generally aimed at bringing the rural women in:

- gainful economic activities through skill training in various trades,
- educating them in various aspects of social life, and
- population related activities in and outside mothers' centres.

## Objectives

The main objective of the programme is to organise the rural women under Mothers' Centre, improve their life and living condition through income generating activities and to motivate them for accepting family planning programme.

### **The specific objectives are:**

- To assist the rural poor women by giving them micro-credit for their self-employment generation and to promote the habit of mobilising savings among them
- To make the target women aware of the importance and benefit of small family and motivate them to keep the size of their families small through adopting population control measures
- The landless, poor, assetless, destitute, handicapped and disadvantaged groups are to be organized through establishing Mothers' Centre and help them to improve their socio-economic condition
- To provide professional and vocational training to the target women in order to increase their productive and economic capability
- To provide informal education and training on health and nutrition, mother and child care, sanitation, neat and cleanliness, use of safe drinking water, literacy, social forestry, and other aspects of social development to improve the living standard of the target women.



## **Formation and administration of the RMC**

A Mothers' Centre is an association of rural women consisting of 40 members. From among the members, an Executive Committee (EC) is formed comprising 7 members selected on the basis of the general consensus. The EC has one President, one Secretary and the rest 5 are members.

The Secretary acts as an organiser of the Mothers' Centre. The EC arranges one meeting with the general members every month, where they discuss and take decision on the following issues:

- Selection of loan recipient
- Disbursement and recovery of loan
- Deposit of savings
- Training on health and nutritional care
- Family planning and family affairs of the members.

The Secretary organises the target women and arranges different programmes. These include imparting literacy knowledge and technical training to them, motivating them to ensure clean and hygienic life, to adopt population control measures and identifying the women who need health care and refer them to the nearest Family Welfare Centre.

The programme started functioning in 1975 in different phases; each one is distinct from the other in terms of coverage and contents. Over the period of 25 years 318 Upazila of the country have been covered through this Programme.

At the field level, the Upazila Social Services Officers (USSO) are implementing and supervising the programme with the help of Field Supervisors and Union Social Workers. The Secretary is responsible for organising and smooth functioning of the RMC activities.

## Activities of the RMC

- Distributing micro-credit among women to facilitate self employment
- Encouraging capital formation through saving
- Educating women on adoption of family planning measures
- Creating awareness on mother and child care
- Encouraging women to use tube-wells for pure drinking water and better sanitary latrines for health and hygiene
- Inspiring the women to conserve the environment through tree plantation
- Providing vocational training for skill development, such as sewing, embroidery, etc.

### Box 3. Success Story 3

#### The experience of a beneficiary of a RMC project

The RMC Project has multidimensional objectives including the disbursement of micro-credit. One Mrs. Shahida Begum of Uzirpur Upazila in Barisal District has explained her past and present conditions. She used to pass her days only with one time meal, when she had no work. Her husband fled away from the house for his inability to maintain the family sometime ago. Shahida used to beg to maintain her two daughters but he hated this profession. Finding no other alternative she enrolled her into a Mothers' Centre of her area in the village of Dhamura. To earn livelihood, she learnt cutting of shirt, shorts and other clothings and also embroidery from the Mothers' Centre.

With a micro-credit of Taka 3000/-, she bought one sewing machine and started making clothing and selling to the small businessmen of Dhamura Bazar. Mrs. Shahida is now a member of a well-to-do family. The girls are good students and are now reading in Dhamura Degree Collage. Mrs. Shahida also got training on health and nutritional care from the Centre. She now leads a family full of peace and honour. Knowing the fate of his wife, husband of Shahida returned back to the village and joined his family again.



## Achievement of RMC Programme up to June 2007

Sl. No.	Component			Achievement
1.	Total amount of fund	-	Taka 398.09	Million
2.	Total amount of reinvested fund (cumulative)	-	Taka 1124.00	Million
3.	Number of families received micro-credit	-	0.79	Million Families
4.	Amount of Group Savings	-	Taka 66.94	Million
5.	Recovery rate	-	93%	
6.	Number of beneficiaries through micro-credit	-	3.94	Million Persons
7.	Number of trainees	-	0.64	Million Persons
8.	Number of beneficiaries through family planning	-	1.24	Million Persons
9.	Number of beneficiaries through literacy Programme		0.53	Million Persons
10.	Number of Tree Plantation	-	1.08	Million Saplings

### 4.1.4. Rehabilitation Programme for the Acid Burnt and Handicapped People

#### Background

There are a good number of people in Bangladesh suffer from different types of disabilities. The Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) live in an unfriendly and hostile environment. They encounter non-cooperation, ill-treatment, neglect and hostility at community, society and even at the family level. They are also denied employment, education and health care to a great extent.

The recent trends of the misuse of acid had become a great threat and made people disabled. The acid victims are mostly young women and adolescent girls. They are mainly female between 14 to 25 years of age (Elora: 2004). However, recently the target of acid throwing has been changed. Now, women, children, youth, even old men become the victims of acid violence.

The acid victims are to suffer physically, psychologically, financially and socially. Acid damages the tissues of the human body and even the bone. The victims become physically handicapped and lost their strength and potentialities. It is found that the acid victims suffer from the rehabilitation and integration problem in the society. The incidents of acid throwing in Bangladesh are generally seen in low income groups and in families of less educated persons. The female victims are attacked for reasons arisen from rejection of sexual appeal from young men, refusal to love and marriage proposal, family and land disputes, demand for dowry, etc.

During 1990, a national consensus was established and some Government agencies and NGOs took initiatives against acid violence. Publicity and propaganda along with work-shop, seminar and conference on acid violence were arranged during the decade. The Government along with the UNICEF and the Acid Survivors Foundation have played an important role in creating public opinion against acid violence. The Foundation is working with the Government agencies and voluntary organisations. The Foundation is providing medicare, counselling, psycho-social treatment, legal support, long term follow-up services. The Foundation is also providing training and rehabilitation services.

The Government has set up One Stop Crisis Centres in some Government hospitals for the acid victims where the Hospital Social Workers of the DSS are playing important roles. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has taken step to control the acid violence. Under the initiative of the said Ministry Acid Prevention Act 2002 and Acid control Act 2002 were promulgated. Formation of Acid Control Council is also an important step to control and stop the misuse of acid.

### **Some programmes to combat acid violence**

The programmes against acid violence may be categorised into 4 types:

- Awareness building activities and protection programme from the acid violence
- Acid control, legal protection for the acid victims
- Treatment programme for the acid victims
- Rehabilitation programme for the acid victims.



## **The programme of the DSS**

According to WHO about 10% population are disabled. Till 2002, there was no micro-credit facility for the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The PWDs are normally dependent on the family members. But many PWDs can do some work and can be self-reliant. The MoSW has responded to the social sentiment regarding acid violence and has taken a programme on rehabilitation of handicapped people along with acid burnt people in the financial year 2002-2003. The DSS is implementing this challenging programme specially meant for acid burnt, other burnt and handicapped people.

## **The objectives of the Programme**

1. Collection of data and information of the acid and other burnt victims and disabled persons and find out their actual number
2. Provide interest free micro-credit for self-employment
3. Prepare priority list for training and rehabilitation
4. Provide skill training for the acid victims and disabled persons
5. Conduct awareness building and advocacy programme against acid violence
6. Arrange quickest treatment of the acid victims
7. Formation of voluntary groups for assisting the acid victims
8. Counseling the acid victims
9. Integration of the victims in the main stream of the family and society.

## **Responsibilities of different committees**

The Programme is implementing all over Bangladesh. To implement and monitor the Programme Steering Committees have been formed in the National and District levels. The Upazila Project Implementation Committee of the RSS project and Project Co-ordination Council of the UCD Programme have been assigned to work as the Project Implementation Committee of the said Programme in Upazila and urban areas respectively.

The National Steering Committee is responsible for policy formulation, co-ordination, guidance, inspection, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. The District Committee is responsible for awareness building, publicity, treatment, inspection and monitoring of the programme. The Upazila and Urban Committees are responsible for sanctioning micro-credit for the acid burnt and handicapped people and creating employment opportunities for them.

### **Publicity**

There has been an arrangement of wide publicity of the programme through mass and electronic media along with distribution of leaflet, street meeting, rally, etc., so that the acid victims and handicapped people can know about the programme easily. The Upazila and Urban level Programme Implementation Committees arrange discussion meetings comprising of all officers and staff, Chairman and Ward Members of Union Parishad, teachers, female social workers from women organisations, religious leaders, freedom fighters and local elites. There are also TV spots for wide publication of the programme. In the monthly meetings of the District and Upazila Development Coordination Committees the issue is discussed and takes actions as per programme.

### **Data Collection and Registration**

The Upazila Social Services Officer and Urban Social Services Officer collect data and information about acid burnt and handicapped people with the help of Union Parishad Members, Pourashava Commissioners, voluntary organisations, mosque committees, market committees, students, teachers and social elites. The Social Services Officer maintains data and information in Data Collection Form and Family Survey Form. He registers the name of the victims and identifies the needs of the victims and helps them accordingly.

### **Micro-Credit Assistance**

The Upazila Social Services Officer provides micro-credit along with medicare and counseling under this programme. A victim can get an amount of Taka 5,000/- to



Taka 15,000/- interest free micro-credit from this programme after observing some formalities. Only 5% service charge is charged on the total amount of allotted micro-credit which is retained in project area for further investment. The micro-credit is repayable in 10 equal installments, and sometimes the repayment schedule may be extended up to 2 years. The repayment of first installment is allowed after 6 months of disbursement of the micro-credit.

### **Eligibility of getting the micro-credit**

Under this programme, the target people, those who earn a maximum of Taka 20,000/- per year, are eligible to get the micro-credit. The eligibility also includes:

1. S/he must be a inhabitant of the respective area/ live at least 5 years in urban area
2. S/he must be a member of the target group
3. S/he must be enlisted in the registration list
4. S/he must be a member in the priority list
5. S/he should apply for the credit with specific scheme
6. S/he must sign an agreement
7. Credit should be sanctioned by the Implementation Committee.

### **Implementation**

The Social Services Officer informs all concerned, specially loanee and the members of the Implementation Committee mentioning date, time and place of credit distribution. Before disbursement of the credit he maintains all records in a register. There is an account for the fund titled as "Acid burnt Women and Physically Handicapped Rehabilitation Fund". The 50% of the accumulated service charge of the credit programme is added with principal fund and other 50% is used for welfare activities of the target people, incentive for best worker, and purchase of equipment. As per terms and conditions of the programme, the Social Services Officer motivates the target people for savings of their own.

To run the Programme smoothly there is a monitoring cell under guidance of Director (Programme) of the DSS. The Deputy Director of the District Office supervises and monitors the Programme at district level. The personnel of the DSS ranking from the Director General to the Upazila Social Services Officer are responsible for implementing the Programme.

The Community based Rehabilitation Programme for Acid burnt Women and Physically Handicapped is an epoch making programme for the most vulnerable people of the country. This programme has already changed the out look of the society. Through this programme, awareness against the heinous offence of acid throwing has been built-up throughout the country.

#### **Box 4. Success Story 4**

##### **Story of Sharifa**

Sharifa, a daughter of small farmer of Narsingdi District was a pretty girl. Many young of the locality proposed to marry her. At last, a young man of the same area Masud pressured her father to give consent and finally managed to marry Sharifa. Soon after the marriage, Masud unveiled his character. He was very much addicted in using drugs. Every now and then he used to torture his wife Sharifa to bring money from her father for doing some business. Sharifa twice brought some money from her father. Her husband misused this money by using drugs. Even after the death of Sharifa's father, her husband demanded money from her. Sharifa refused to bring any money from her poor mother. At this event, her husband has thrown acid on Sharifa, wounding her seriously. She was admitted to the local hospital. But due to seriousness of her wound, Sharifa had been transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Her poor mother was quite unable to bear the treatment cost. The Hospital Social Service Unit of the DSS in Dhaka Medical College Hospital provided all sorts of financial, psychological and physical support to Sharifa. Hospital Social Services of the DSS spent Taka 30,000/- for her treatment from "Burnt Fund". One Stop Crisis Centre has provided legal assistance to her.

After successful treatment and also proper counseling and guidance provided by Social Services Officer Mrs. Feroza and Mrs. Mahmuda, Sharifa was sent to her mother. The DSS has taken an initiative to rehabilitate her providing micro-credit of Taka 10,000/- from Rehabilitation Programme for the Acid Burnt and Handicapped People.



## Achievement of Rehabilitation Programme of Acid Burnt Women and the Physically Handicapped up to June 2007

Sl. No.	Component	Achievement		
1.	Total amount of Fund	-	Taka 649.91	million
2.	Total number Upazila covered	-	477	Nos.
3.	Number of UCD covered	-	80	Nos.
4.	Number of village covered	-	All over Bangladesh	
5.	Number of micro-credit recipients	-	62,976	Families
6.	Number of beneficiaries	-	3,14,880	Persons
7.	Recovery rate	-	54%	

### 4.1.5. Abasan/ Asrayan Project of the Prime Minister's Office

The Abashan Project is an important Programme of the Government for the vulnerable section of the population. The programme is managed by the Abashan Project Management in the Prime Minister's Office. Ministry of Land and Cooperatives Department are also involved to implement this project. As the partner of the implementing agencies, the DSS is implementing disbursement of micro-credit of this project in 181 upazilas of the country with the help of the RSS manpower.

The main objective of Abashan Project is to rehabilitate the shelterless, landless vulnerable group of the society. To make the target group as self-reliant and skilled human resource, a training programme has been included in this project. The objectives of training programme are:

1. To make the member of the target group as skilled manpower
2. To empower the rehabilitated population
3. To buildup social awareness and leadership qualities

4. To build up awareness regarding capital formation and saving
5. To create awareness on the issues of primary health care
6. To make aware about the prevention of diseases
7. To motivate in family planning activities
8. To run the literacy programme
9. To make the people aware about tree plantation
10. To help create income generating activities.

This programme is designed as a package programme. The DSS is implementing the micro-credit disbursement along with training and other activities assigned by the project. So far, 21,308 families have been benefited through this programme.

## **4.2. Poverty Alleviation through Social Safety Net (Security and Protection) Programmes**

The Safety Net Programmes come as a ladder to move the poor people out of poverty. The majority of the households benefiting from the safety net programmes based on cash transfer have been able to increase household income. The household income has also reduced the food and health insecurity of the vulnerable. Cash transfer, even though it is relief oriented, encourages beneficiaries to make some investment. Programmes targeted at old and disabled have increased their participation in household decision making, improved health condition and revived previous system in family care. The Social Safety Net Programmes for the old people, disabled people and honorarium for the Distressed Freedom Fighters are described here in brief.

### **4.2.1. Old Age Allowance Programme**

Traditionally the elders are thought as the guardians and advisers of the society. Elderly people are respected by the family, society and even by the nation. But due to various socio-economic reasons, the traditional values and customs are not maintaining



properly. Due to degradation of moral values, the younger population considers the experience and knowledge of the elders to be outdated. Today in many cases youths no longer like to live with the elders. On the other hand, due to their profession they have to go for work in distant places. As a result, the traditional joint family structures have broken down and familial support to the elders have reduced largely.



Old Age Allowance is being distributed to an old woman at Shibchar, Madaripur by the Director General Department of Social Services, Mr. Hafizul Islam Mian

Under the above circumstances elderly people, specially the elder population of the poor families have been thrown into socio-economic insecurity. Absence of health care facilities for the elders is another major factor that contributed to their suffering since aging invites new health problems. Elderly poor women face more problems due to aging. The percentage of poverty stricken people is higher among the elderly population than the normal average. For increasing life expectancy, the number of older persons is increasing day by day.

The Constitution of Bangladesh in its article 15 (D) declares introduction of social security programme for the elderly population. In Bangladesh, policy for the elderly people have been limited to pension scheme for Government servants and various

retirement benefits for employees of public sector corporations. The Third (1985-90) and Fourth (1990-95) Five Year Plans of Bangladesh recognised the issue of allowances for the elderly people, but the programme could not be undertaken in those plan periods. The Fifth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) had emphasized on the issue and introduced Old Age Programme in 1998 to help the elderly people of the country. The Government has taken decision to involve the public representatives in the selection and distribution process of the allowance properly. The DSS has decided to constitute older persons organisation in each Union Parishad, which may come forward to address the issues of the older persons along with the government.

Population census, 2001, National Report (provisional) published by the BBS, July 2003 reveals that there are 14,43,140 persons belonging to 65-69 years, 16,26,240 belonging to 70-74 years, 6,15,940 belonging to 75-79 years and 10,76,380 persons belonging to 80 years and above age group. Thus number of elderly population above 65 years of age stands as 47,61,700 persons or approximately 4.76 millions.

The year wise statistics of the distribution of the Old Age Allowance since inception is given below:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Allocation of Fund</b>	<b>Rate of Allowances per month</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>
1997-1998	Taka 125.00 million	@Taka 100	4,03,110 persons
1998-1999	Taka 485.00 million	@Taka 100	4,03,110 do
1999-2000	Taka 500.00 million	@Taka 100	4,13,190 do
2000-2001	Taka 500.00 million	@Taka 100	4,15,170 do
2001-2002	Taka 500.00 million	@Taka 100	4,15,170 do
2002-2003	Taka 750.00 million	@Taka 125	5,00,000 do
2003-2004	Taka 1800.00 million	@Taka 150	1.00 million do
2004-2005	Taka 2603.70 million	@Taka 165	1.315 million do
2005-2006	Taka 3240.00 million	@Taka 180	1.5 million do
2006-2007	Taka 3840.00 million	@Taka 200	1.6 million do
2007-2008	Taka 4485.00 million	@Taka 220	1.7 million do



## Impact of Old Age Allowances

The Old Age Allowance Programme is an epoch-making achievement of the Government. The Old Age Allowance Programme has a positive impact on the recipients, recipients' family and also on the society as a whole. The old people would no longer be the burden of the family they come from and they are honoured as a result of becoming recipients of the Old Age Allowance. The Programme also familiarises the old people with formal banking system. Through this programme the recipients get opportunities to meet the senior public representatives, where they can express their sorrows and difficulties. The Government is gradually increasing the number of beneficiaries along with gradual increment in the monthly allowances.

### Box 5. Success Story 5

#### Story of an Old Age Allowance recipient

Jahanara Begum wife of late Md. Jafar, of Nagbari More, Ward No-5, Municipality of Narayanganj led her livelihood in a very measurable and sub human condition. Ulta poverty had snatched her all potential qualities. Family members including her sons did not look after Jahanara Begum. At that crucial time she was enlisted as a recipient of Old Age Allowances and got allowances in the month of July, 2004. After receiving the allowances her importance in the family rapidly increased. She now spends her allowances for her personal needs, sometimes she presents some sort of gifts to her grand children. Mr. Kiran Shankar Biswas, Social Services Officer, UCD project in charge picked up her in the list of the recipients. Now she is happy to get the allowance and offers her gratitude to the Department of Social Services.

#### 4.2.2. Allowance for the Insolvent Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

The Constitution of Bangladesh has a strong commitment in its article 15 (D) to introduce Social Security Programme for the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) along with other segment of population who are socially insecure.

The National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction designed by Planning Commission of the Government has given utmost priority for the first time to the overall development and welfare of the PWDs. The same Strategy Paper holds positive views for the disabled people to improve their overall conditions. It is necessary to arrange free education at all levels for the children of the PWDs, reserve jobs for them in government and private services, allow them to travel free or at discount fare and create special infrastructure facilities for their easy movement. Recommendations have also been made to make provision of a regular allowance, arrange rehabilitation programmes, give preference to disabled women in distributing khas land and old age allowances, undertake measures for imparting training and creating suitable employment opportunities and make provision of separate wards and counters in government hospitals for disabled people.

Keeping the message and provisions of the Constitution and National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction Paper in mind, the Government introduced Allowances for the Insolvent PWDs through the Department of Social Services under social security programme in 2005-2006. In the same period the Government has allocated Taka 250 million and 100466 insolvent PWDs received allowances at the rate of Taka 200 per month. The Government has given utmost importance on the Programme and increased the allocation from Taka 250 million to Taka 400 million in fiscal year 2006-2007. The government has further increased the allocation of this programme in 2007-2008 fiscal year. The amount of allocation stands at taka 600 million and number of beneficiaries 200,000. This programme has been treated as an outstanding programme run by the Department of Social Services as well as by the Government.

## **Box 6. Success story 6**

### **A Dream Comes True-Story of Noorjahan**

Noorjahan (25) is the 5<sup>th</sup> child among 6 brothers and 3 sisters of her parent's ultra poor family. She resides at Kutubdia Para situated in the downtown of Cox's Bazar town. She is physically disabled by born. Her both legs are inactive and not properly grown up. She used to go to Kutubdia Para Mohsenia Madrasa and studied there up to class IV. But her poor parents could not continue her study due to poverty. Her disability also kept her neglected in the family. In 2004 she got married to one Moqbul Hossain, but that greedy left her and married another girl. She spent a year in her elder brother's family with negligence and dishonour. Finding no way out Noorjahan came down to the street and started begging, although she did not like it.

Mr. Abhijit Saha UCD Project in Charge picked up Noorjahan from the street and provided 3-month long tailoring training under this programme. As she was disabled by her legs, Mr. Abhijit arranged a hand sewing machine for her. Due to her firm will power and determination she completed this 3-month long training only within a month. Her trainer Ms. Hosne Ara said "I was just surprised watching Noorjahan's fine works within this short period and sometimes she does these better than me."

Now Noorjahan earns TK. 150-200 daily making dresses for children and women. Noorjahan now plans to send her younger brothers and sisters to school. She expressed "I will not bow my head to poverty as long as my hands are active." Ms. Hosne Ara added, "I feel proud to train this disabled girl who being a confident, meritorious and courageous girl, drove away all her inactiveness and poverty from her life through this training. This gives me the feelings of first time success as a trainer in rehabilitating a disabled person."

This story was published in the daily news papers and it has created an inspirable environment among the ultra poor in the area. One of the judges' wife, District Council, local businessmen and NGO personnel in Cox's Bazar patronized Noorjahan to set up a full fledged tailoring shop by which she can run an independent business. The most unique and noticeable matter is that the people of her local area are making their dresses from Noorjahan not only to help her but to give her courage to fight against her physical disability and this has been an example for the ultra poor people to fight against poverty. Nowadays Noorjahan has got more recognition and dignity in her family as well as in the society. Mr. Abhijit Saha reminds, "three months before we just shown her the way to live with dignity. Everyone should see and realize that PWDs also can win the life if they are provided opportunities and they can contribute to the society as well as to the country."



### **4.2.3. Honorarium (Allowance) for the Distressed Freedom Fighters**

The Government has introduced honorarium for Distressed Freedom Fighters through the DSS from 1 July 2002. Later the programme has been transferred to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs but still the DSS is implementing the programme at the field level. The Director General has been appointed as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs. The staff members of the DSS are working to implement the Programme with the help of local administration. An amount of Taka 600 million had been allocated during the financial year 2006-07 and the number of beneficiaries were 1,00,000 Freedom Fighters.

### **4.2.4. Stipend Programme for the Students with Disabilities**

The Department of Social Services has started its journey to address challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century, specially issues related to social development. The Department firmly believes that sustainable human resource development depends on education, training and capacity build up. But till to date students with disabilities are yet to enjoy equal facilities in educational institutions. Besides, poverty also hinders them from getting education and training. As present, only about 7% disabled children are going to schools. To encourage the disabled children to enroll themselves in the educational institutions, the proposal of the DSS to award stipends to the students with disabilities has been accepted by the Government. In the financial year 2007-2008, the Government has introduced this Stipend Programme for the students with disabilities and has allocated taka 50 million for this Programme. The responsibility has given to the DSS to implement this Programme to raise the percentage of disabled students in the educational institutions of the country.

## **4.3. Social Integration Programmes (Poverty Alleviation through Human Resource Development)**

There are innumerable children living in a deplorable condition in the country. There are orphans, destitute, disabled and very poor, who are living below the poverty line. From the 1950's some orphans were reared up, educated and rehabilitated by the Government through establishing the state orphanages. Other than this programme, the

DSS has established many organisations for education, training, rehabilitation and integration of the destitute children, street children, abandoned baby and destitute women, which are stated below.

#### 4.3.1. Sarkari Shishu Paribar (Government Children Homes)

In 1944, Bengal Orphan and Widow Act was passed for the management of orphanages. At the Government level, Primary Education Directorate was initially responsible to run the state orphanages. Since the inception of the Department of Social Services in 1961, the responsibility of running the state orphanages had been transferred to the DSS.



Wedding ceremony of the Sarkari Shishu Paribar, Tejgaon, Dhaka

#### The objectives

It is a fact that orphans have no dignified means to develop themselves. The main objective behind the management of the Sarkari Shishu Paribar (Government Children Homes) is to create an environment for children to grow as normal citizens of the country. The specific objectives of Sarkari Shishu Paribar are to take care, protect, maintain and to provide food, education, training, medicare, recreational facilities and also to rehabilitate and reintegrate the orphans in the society.



## The activities

There are 85 Sarkari Shishu Paribars under the DSS all over the country with a capacity of 10,375 orphans. Among which 44 institutions are earmarked for boys, 40 for girls and 1 for both sexes. For physical and mental growth of the residents of orphanages, the following facilities are provided:

- a. Food and lodging
- b. Shelter and maintenance
- c. General education
- d. Religious and moral teaching
- e. Sports and recreation
- f. Medicare
- g. Vocational training
- h. Reintegration
- i. Rehabilitation.

The Sarkari Shishu Paribars are run by a Management Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner of the respective district. There are other Committees to look after orphans and to help the Management Committee.

The Government has given special emphasis on overall development of the Sarkari Shishu Paribar. To create homely atmosphere and nursing the orphans, some modernised steps have been taken. With this end in view, the previous concept of Sarkari Shishu Sadan has been changed. Now the orphanages are designed in consistent with family management and are now renamed as Sarkari Shishu Paribars. This is one of the most important poverty alleviation as well as human resource development programmes of the Government for the destitute orphans. A total number of 38880 orphans have been rehabilitated through this programme up to June 2007. These orphanages would be modernised with medical centre and computer training facilities in the next Medium Term Budget (2006-2009).

### 4.3.2. Financial Assistance to the non-Government orphanages

From time immemorial, religious and social sentiment has played an important role in rearing orphans. Being inspired from these sentiments and moral values, a good number of orphanages have been established in close touch and guidance of the committees of mosques, madrashas, temples, churches, pagodas etc. Some philanthropists, landlords, merchants and religious leaders also run some orphanages.

The DSS strongly believes that Government can not alone provide services for the welfare and development of all the orphans. The DSS provides financial assistance to the non Government orphanages. The DSS provides capitation grant for some of the residents of the non-Government orphanages under the following principles:

1. The orphanage should be registered with the DSS
2. Each orphanage must have at least 10 residents to get capitation grant
3. Maximum of 50% of the total residents may get capitation grant
4. Orphanage must have immovable asset and housing facilities
5. Management of the orphanage must be transparent and accountable
6. Application should be processed through and recommended by the Deputy Director of each district
7. Orphans specially poor, by-passed, victims of natural disaster will get priority
8. List of orphanages is to be prepared by a Committee headed by Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of Social Welfare.

According to the above principles, Taka 4800 was provided per year as capitation grant for each of the orphans. From the Financial Year 2007-2008 the capitation grant has been increased to Taka 7,200/- per year per orphan. In the Financial Year 2006-2007 the Government has allocated Taka 190 million as capitation grant. In the Financial Year 2007-2008 the allocation to the non-Government orphanages is about Taka 300 million. The Government has spent Taka 1326.5 million for this purpose during 1997 to 2007. About 2,76,354 orphans has so far been benefited out of this fund. For proper utilisation of the Government grant, the DSS is supervising and monitoring the private owned orphanages. Care is also taken to built up the distressed orphans as productive citizens.



### 4.3.3. Pre-vocational Training Programmes in the Orphanages

The DSS has given importance to develop the residents of Sarkari Shishu Paribar as self-reliant citizens of the country. With a view to provide more effective training facilities, 6 vocational training centres have been established among which 4 are attached to Sarkari Shishu Paribar in four divisional headquarters (Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna) and another one is attached to the Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage in Dhaka. The other one is vocational training centre attached to Sarkari Shishu Paribar, Bhola and is run by the Swedish Free Mission.

The centres impart training on mechanical and electrical works to the orphans selected from the Government Shishu Paribars all over the country. About 1225 trained orphans had been rehabilitated till to date. These centres would be modernised in the Medium Term Budget (2006-2009).

### 4.3.4. Baby Homes

The DSS has established 6 Baby Homes in 6 divisions of the country for unclaimed and abandoned babies up to 6 years of age. The first such institution was started in Azimpur, Dhaka in 1962. The unclaimed and abandoned babies are mostly recovered from the hospitals. Under this programme, food, care, protection, education and nursing facilities are provided to the babies very carefully.

### Admission Procedure and Rehabilitation

When an abandoned and unclaimed baby is found, any one can send him to the nearest baby home filing a General Diary in the respective police station. The authority of the baby home, after receiving such baby, tries to find out his/her near or dear ones.

Authority of the baby home maintains a case history of the baby, along with the sources, i.e. how he/she receives the baby. In six Baby Homes, the number of babies is 525.



Baby Home, Azimpur, Dhaka

After attaining the age of 6, the babies are shifted to the Sarkari Shishu Paribar for further care, protection, education and training up to the age of 18 years. Special care is taken for them by the DSS. The Director General of the DSS is the ex-officio guardian and protector of the residents of the Baby Homes. The DG maintains a list of residents and tries to rehabilitate and reintegrate them in the society after their completion of education and training. 1014 babies have been rehabilitated and reintegrated up to June 2007.

#### 4.3.5. Day Care Centre

Day time child caring is a great problem for the poor working mothers specially in the city areas. Mothers of low-income group had to face this problem with great difficulty during their working hours. The DSS has established a Day Care Centre at Azimpur, Dhaka in 1962 with a capacity of 50 residents. The working mothers keep their kids in the said centre without any cost and take them away at the end of their working hours. The centre provides care, protection, food, security, recreation, play group standard education for these children. 8090 children have been benefited since inception through this centre.



Being inspired by this initiative of the DSS, a good number of such centres have been established in the city areas both by public and private management. This arrangement of rearing babies has helped the poor working mothers to continue their jobs safely, which have ultimate effect on the poverty reduction of the poor mother.

#### **4.3.6. Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Destitute Children**

The destitute children are not only the problem of the concerned families but also for the community as a whole and thus the issue needs to be addressed by the Government. Capacity building and empowerment of the children to integrate them in the mainstream of the society is possible by providing training in marketable trades. Under the child welfare and development programme of the DSS, three institutions have been established for training and rehabilitation of the destitute children which are located at Konabari, Gazipur, Tungipara, Gopalganj and Rangunia, Chittagong. In these centres, 900 destitute children are getting different types of training.

Destitute and street children between 5 to 14 years of age are admitted into the Destitute Children Rehabilitation Centre. They are provided with formal education in addition to various vocational training like cycle repairing, tailoring, carpentry, electrical works, automobiles etc. with the ultimate objective of rehabilitating them in the society. Moreover, counseling services are also provided for their mental development and self-employment.

The destitute children themselves were the breadwinners for them earlier. After coming into the centre, they are trained and are getting jobs in different trades. The DSS employees always try to help them in finding jobs relevant to their skill and interest. A total of 2788 children have been rehabilitated through this programme up to June 2007.

#### **4.3.7. Socio-economic Training Centres for the Women**

The DSS since its inception has given special attention to train destitute women as productive citizens. Along with other activities, the DSS has facilitated training, special opportunities for the women. From 1973, the DSS is running two socio-economic centres of which one is located at Mirpur, Dhaka and another is at Shalban, Rangpur. Women of

the lower income group receive training on cutting and sewing, boutique, doll making, embroidery, wool knitting, confectionery and chinese cooking. Recently a good number of college and university poor students are receiving such training here. Some trained women have already employed themselves in productive activities. Homemade cakes and other quality products of the trained women are now being regularly supplied in some renowned confectioneries of the city. A total number of 16404 poor women have been benefited through this programme up to June 2007.

#### **4.3.8. Vocational Training and Production Centre for the Destitute Women**

The destitute women who live in slum area face a lot of problems. They do not able to engage themselves in modern profession due to lack of proper training and guidance. The DSS established a vocational training centre for the destitute women on weaving in 1978 at Dattapara, Tongi, Gazipur. The centre provides training allowance of Taka 50 per trainee per month. But due to non-weaving zone, the programme is now not functioning properly. A proposal has been sent to the Ministry of Social Welfare to make this centre as rehabilitation centre for the beggars.

#### **4.3.9. Protection of Children at Risk (PCAR) Project: A Programme for the Street Children and Children without parental care**

The presence of street children in Bangladesh is symptomatic of the social phenomena of under development such as poverty, over population, unemployment and illiteracy. With the escalation of rural landlessness and consequence of large scale urban migration, poor working children on the streets have to feed for themselves and they play an increasingly crucial role in family survival. Those children on the street work mostly as vendors, car cleaners, beggars, newspaper seller and flower seller as well as in hazardous jobs such as tempo helpers, brick-chippers, rag pickers, factory workers etc.

#### **ARISE: the Art of Endurance of Street Children**

The Constitutions of Bangladesh, The Children Act 1974, the 1990's United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Bangladesh Poverty



Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) provide rights based framework for intervention in the lives of children, including street children. Protection and participation are the two key principles for promoting development of children's skills and knowledge that build support structures for children and lessen their vulnerability.

The Project Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment (ARISE) was implemented by the DSS with financial and technical support of UNDP from April 1999 to March 2007. The objective was to promote and protect the rights of the street children and thereby support the development programmes targeted to street children by strengthening their survival skills and providing opportunities for a secured future through government, NGO and community interventions.

### **Sustainability:**

ARISE has made a number of innovations while dealing with street children. The gained experiences, learned lessons and the best practices blended together to design the UNICEF supported Protection of Children at Risk (PCAR) Project. These efforts are expected to help us to develop a sustainable mechanism to serve the street children of Bangladesh.

### **Transformation from ARISE to PCAR**

From April 2007 onward PCAR Project has replaced ARISE to continue the livelihood options and social protection of the vulnerable children under the DSS. The UNICEF is providing technical and financial assistance to support the new project upto December 2008 with a possibility of extension upto December 2010. PCAR has two components: Sub-project 1: ARISE –Street Children and Sub-project 2: Children without Parental Care.

### **Goal of PCAR:**

To protect street children and children without parental care from abuse, exploitation and violence and improve their life conditions promoting a protective environment.

### **Objectives of PCAR:**

#### **ARISE: Street Children Sub-project:**

- To develop capacity for establishing reintegration mechanism for street children with the family and community.
- To ensure protection of children living in the street situation and capacity building of stakeholders.

- To enhance and strengthen basic Drop-in Centre services for Street Children in 6 divisional cities of Bangladesh.
- To strengthen the psycho-social and life skills support services.
- To enhance the capacity of street children for market driven jobs that ensure a sustainable livelihood through providing non- formal education and livelihood skills training.

### **Children without Parental Care Sub-project:**

- To build institutional capacity on proactive social work and develop minimum institutional care standard for the children in institutions, which is the last resort.
- To develop community based care mechanisms and consider institutionalization as a measure of last resort.

### **Project activities**

Activities of the project have been designed taking into consideration the needs identified through situation analysis and reviewing the existing services available to uplift the status of the street children. Following are the activities being implemented by the project through nine partner NGOs:

1. Drop-in-centre/night shelter
2. Health services
3. Education
4. Community sensitization
5. Psychological Counseling
6. Recreational activities
7. Market survey
8. Vocational training
9. Job Placement
10. Networking
11. Advocacy
12. Legal Aid Protection
13. Integration to family and society

Another mentionable task the project accomplished is organizing Parents-Children



Annual Get Together programme at three Juvenile Development Centres (JDCs) and Family visit for the children of six Vagrant Homes and three (JDCs) which ultimately has strengthened the way of children's integration to the families. The project also organized training for the DSS officials and partner NGOs staff of different parts of the country on Child Centered Proactive Approach of Social Work.

### **The number of street children:**

Number of street children in Bangladesh in 2004	6,79,728
Street children in Six divisions	3,89,892
Street children in Dhaka	2,49,200
Street children in Chittagong	55,856
Street children in Rajshahi	20,426
Street children in Khulna	41,474
Street children in Barisal	9,771
Street children in Sylhet	13,165
<b>Projection of Street children in 2014</b>	<b>1,144,754</b>
<b>Projection of Street children in 2024</b>	<b>1,615,330</b>

Source: 'Estimation of the Size of Street Children and their Projection for Major Urban Areas of Bangladesh 2004' commissioned to BIDS by ARISE

### **Impact:**

The activities of PCAR project have a positive impact on the children as well as on the society as a whole. The following are the some of the results:

- Initiative taken to reduce social stigma of the community towards children
- Number of enrollment in the formal school increased
- Mainstreaming in socio-economic sector through
- job placement with skill development training has been made
- Level of trust & confidence among the Street Children improved

- Developed leadership among themselves
- Ensured street children's participation and empowerment
- Involved with the process of socialization and grown the sense of belongingness
- Promoted potentials and creativity
- Ensured access to information
- Facilitated the process of social capital building
- Generated community support
- Started reintegration process



Beneficiaries of the Project for Children at Risk



**Achievement:**

Service directly provided to street children through pNGOs in six divisional cities

Activity	Target (9 months)	Achievement			
		April-June	July-September	October-December	Total
NFE & Sch	2688	874	722	722	2318
VT	630	91	117	117	325
JP	504	53	60	60	173
DIC	1092	557	243	243	1043
LA		0	10	10	20
R (F&C)	240	24	7	7	38
Hea	3360	666	859	859	2384
LS	3360	969	425	425	1819
Re	3360	1143	1060	1060	3263
Aw	3360	1274	525	525	2324
PS	3360	646	748	748	2142
Total	21954	6297	4776	4776	15849

Source of data: Quarter-2, 3 reports and best assumption for quarter-4.

#### 4.4. Prevention of Social Disintegration Programmes (Poverty Alleviation Programmes)

Due to rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and change in the social attitude, the number of juvenile (involved in criminal activities) have increased to a great extent. There are several causes which usually help to involve a child in criminal and unsocial activities. Important among the causes are poverty, absence in primary education, unrest and quarrel in family, divorce, absence of parental care, easy availability of drugs and arms, etc. To combat child criminality and correct their character, several programmes have been undertaken by the MoSW in the late nineteen seventies, which are narrated below.

#### **4.4.1. Juvenile Development Centres**

Juvenile delinquency has emerged as a matter of concern in Bangladesh in recent times with the number of children mostly poor involved in criminal activities. Numerous social factors coupled with absence of parenting, family troubles and above all poverty are pushing these children to undesirable activities. The Juvenile Development Centres take the responsibility of caring, protecting, providing food, housing, clothing, medicare, education, vocational training, correction, human development and counseling to the delinquent children. These are done as per the provisions of the Children's Act, 1974, the National Children Policy and in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Child Rights Convention (UNCRC).

#### **Objective of the Juvenile Centres**

The objective of the Juvenile Centre is to create a congenial atmosphere in the family and also in the society by giving due attention to all dimensions of protection, survival and development of the children who are in contact with law. The Government has given due attention to consider the special needs of the juvenile offenders in terms of ethical and human rights. A Juvenile Development Centre extends its every effort to eliminate the adverse effects which make children delinquent through recognised methods of correction.

#### **The specific objectives of the Juvenile Development Centres are**

- To receive the juveniles in the Juvenile Development Centre for correction, not for the punishment
- To carry out the judgment imposed by the courts with utmost humanity
- To retain the rights and privileges like other members of the society
- To give importance to the family and society in the correctional process
- To assist the rehabilitation and integration of the Juvenile offenders into the community as law abiding and productive citizen of the country.



There are two exclusive Acts in Bangladesh to deal with the Administration of Juvenile Justice. These are: The Children Act, 1974 and the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960 (amended in 1964). It is of utmost importance that delinquency is prevented through social measures, as most of the causes behind their delinquency are deeply rooted in the society itself. It is also important that these children are allowed to be corrected and reintegrated back into the mainstream of society through proper correctional measures. The Government of Bangladesh since long has placed priority on the issues relating to proper Juvenile Justice Administration.

The Government initiatives for meaningful and effective operation of these Acts have been intensified and taken with all seriousness in recent times. The Government has so far established three Juvenile Development Centres under the provision of the Children Act, 1974, each of which consists of one Juvenile Court, one Remand Home and one Training Institute. These Centres are

- (i) National Juvenile Development Centre, Tongi, Gazipur (for 200 boys)
- (ii) National Juvenile Development Centre, Konabari, Gazipur (for 150 girls)
- (iii) Juvenile Development Centre, Jessore (for 150 boys)

Another Juvenile Development Centre (with capacity of 300) having similar programmes/components is going to be established in Joypurhat District. Necessary facilities of the existing two units located at Tongi and Jessore would be increased for the accommodation of additional 350 residents. In total the number of residents of these 4 centres would be 1150. A total number of 11399 juveniles have been rehabilitated through this programme up to June 2007.

## **Organs of Juvenile Development Centres**

### **Juvenile Court**

The Juvenile Court set up under the Children Act, 1974 tries some specific cases of children where they have allegedly breached the penal laws of the country. It looks into the cases lodged by the guardians against their children for their uncontrollable behaviour. This court also looks into the cases of extremely distressed children having no place to live in and the children produced before the court as victims of abuse, violence and exploitation.

## Remand Home

There is a remand home in every Juvenile Development Centre. The Remand Home of the Juvenile Development Centre does not bear traditional meaning and purpose. Actually, it is used as the safe home for care, custody, protection and observation of delinquent children remanded by any Court awaiting trial. As per section 20 of the Children Act of 1974, the Government may establish and maintain remand homes for detention, diagnosis and classification of children committed to custody by any Court or Police. Through the Remand Home of the Juvenile Development Centre a separate custodial arrangement is made for the younger offenders during their under trial period. The objective of the separation of the youthful offenders from the adult and serious prisoner is to protect them from their bad influence, abuse and harassment in the normal prison. The Remand Home while detaining the children for trial and custody offers physical security, child friendly environment and healthy living condition to the children. This special arrangement of detention provides opportunities for close observation and study of the children's individuality taking into account. The Child's psychology, socio-economic background, his abilities and aptitudes are recorded by the Probation Officer, Social Case Worker and any other Officer assigned for diagnosis of the juvenile delinquents. On the basis of observation and study, a social inquiry report (pre-sentence report) is prepared and produced at the trial Court. This report helps the Court to pass an appropriate order about the children concerned. This report also helps the Correctional Officers to develop treatment plan for the children in contact with law. Ultimately, this diagnosis helps the children in their correction and reintegration in the society.

## Training Institute

The Training Institute is a centre for training, education, behavioural correction and development of the children sent by the juvenile court or other courts of the country. This Institute also provides facilities for skill-development training in suitable trades, compulsory primary education and counseling services for correction and human resource development. Thus huge number of derailed juveniles has been educated, trained and rehabilitated in the society and thereby helping the Government in reducing



criminal activities as well as in creating favourable environment to live on. Majority of the juveniles have returned to their normal life and engaged them in the socio-economic activities.

These programmes have national impact in regaining peace in this society by correcting the juvenile offenders on the one hand and made them trained personnel to earn a livelihood for them on the other. The negative impact of their earlier action has been changed through such programmes. Through these centres about 15800 Juvenile delinquents have been given accommodation along with other facilities and out of these about 11399 juveniles have been corrected, rehabilitated and provided legal aid support.

The DSS has signed MoU with the Save the Children UK and is working with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the MoU signed by the Ministry Law and Parliamentary Affairs in the field of Juvenile Justice Administration.

#### **4.4.2. Probation and After Care Services**

Probation and After Care Services are important programmes run by the DSS, which are based on the philosophy of correctional approach instead of awarding punishment of the offenders. Social scientists even the criminologists strongly hold views that the correction, not the punishment can permanently change the life pattern and behaviour of an offender. Accordingly Probation of Offenders Ordinance was passed in 1960, which was amended as an Act in 1964. The programme is being implemented in all districts, upazilas and metropolitan areas.

#### **The objectives of probation services are**

1. To identify the causes of the offence and how to overcome the causes
2. To keep away the first offenders from the bad association of criminals in the prison.
3. To help the offenders to rectify themselves for first time in the society
4. To protect the offenders from the stigma and re-integrate in the society
5. To ensure facilities for the released offenders to rehabilitate in the society through providing micro credit and other facilities.
6. To make reports for counseling and guidance for future life of the offenders.

## **The objectives of the After Care Services**

1. To provide education, training for the prisoner in the jail
2. To provide legal assistance for the destitute and needy offenders
3. To provide assistance for rehabilitation and reintegration in the society.

To make the Probation and After Care Services successful and to correct the offenders, a Welfare and Rehabilitation Association for the Offenders has been formed in every district headed by the concerned District Magistrate. Recently the Government has given much importance to activate these services through imparting training to the probation officers of the whole country. The Social Welfare Officers in each Upazila have been assigned the duty of Probation Officer in addition to their own duties. The Probation Officer working in the Districts and Upazilas have been directed to monitor the activities of noted juvenile delinquents and make recreational clubs/ associations to provide recreational and micro-credit facilities. Selected juveniles if provided with micro-credit facilities they may have opted for small business, rather than their earlier offensive activities. With this cooperation the offensive activities of the juveniles can be minimised, if not fully be corrected.

The Probation Service is closely related to the courts. When an offender is found guilty and his offence is not so serious, then the Magistrate/Judge can collect pre-sentence report from the Probation Officer of the DSS. The report should include behaviour of the offenders, past life, socio-economic conditions, relation with neighbours, etc. After considering the pre-sentence report, court may release the offenders on probation under some conditions. On the other hand, After Care Services cater services to prisoners in jail and released prisoners in the society. Up to June 2007, through Probation and After Care Services 6138 and 6649 persons respectively have been rehabilitated. Therefore, the results obtained from the Probation and After Care Services are prospective in respect of reintegrating and rehabilitating the offenders in the society to lead a life free of anxiety as well as poverty.



#### 4.4.3. Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Vagrants (Sarkari Ashroy Kendro)

The vagrancy is treated as a great social problem, which arises mainly due to distress-ness and poverty. The number of vagrants has been increased due to poverty, unemployment, landlessness, natural calamities, disasters and social deprivation prevalent in the society. The problem of beggars, by now has turned serious problems and the solution of these problem lies in tackling them at the grass-root level. The Upazila Parishads should, among other organisations, address to deal with the above problems by creating employment opportunities at the village level with the help of local Union Parishads. Migration of the economically hard-pressed and unemployed persons who finding no other alternatives, resort to begging, should be stopped. The problem of professional beggars, of course, is no less serious, which needs to be dealt under Vagrancy Act. A significant number of infirm and disabled persons will take to begging for their survival for considerable period of time. Appropriate measures with adequate programmes would be taken to help these unfortunate groups of people for their maintenance and rehabilitation as honourable citizens.



Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, Hon'ble Social Welfare Advisor is visiting Sarkari Ashroy Kendra, Pubail Gazipur

Under the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943, first vagrant home was established at Chandpur, in August, 1947 which was closed later. In 1961 two vagrant homes had been established in Dhala, Mymensingh and Pubail, Gazipur.

Now the DSS is running 6 Sarkari Ashroy Kendra (Vagrant Homes) the particulars of which is as under:

Sl.	Name of the Centre	Capacity
1.	Sarkari Ashroy Kendra, Mirpur, Dhaka (Reception Centre)	200
2.	Sarkari Ashroy Kendra, Dhala, Mymensingh	300
3.	Sarkari Ashroy Kendra, Pubail, Gazipur	500
4.	Sarkari Ashroy Kendra, Kashimpur, Gazipur	300
5.	Sarkari Ashroy Kendra, Betila, Manikganj	200
6.	Sarkari Ashroy Kendra, Godnail, Narayanganj	400
	<b>Total capacity :</b>	<b>1900</b>

### The objectives are

- To provide shelter, food, clothing, training, and informal education
- To motivate them against any immoral profession
- To rehabilitate and reintegrate them in the society.

Considering the above mentioned objectives these centres provide free food, shelter, madicare, religious education and marketable skill training in industrial garments, bamboo and cane works, wool works, carpentry, hair cutting, aqua-culture, horticulture etc. to make the residents capable in getting jobs. On completion of the training, the residents are provided financial assistance for income generating activities so that they can be rehabilitated in the society. A total number of 46991 residents have been rehabilitated through this programme up to June 2007.



The DSS has signed a MoU with the Concern Bangladesh, an International NGO to work in Vagrant Homes and in Safe Custody Home for the Women and Adolescent Girls (popularly known as Safe Home). Recently another MoU has been signed with the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) to impart joyful education for the residents of the shelter homes.

The DSS has taken a project to extend this programme outside the Dhaka division. Five centres has been established at Chittagong, Natore, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet with a capacity of 100 each and would start functioning very soon.

#### **4.4.4. Safe Custody Home for the Women and Adolescent Girls (Safe Home)**

In view of increasing demands and needs for providing safe custody for women, children and adolescents in the country, the Ministry of Social Welfare has established 6 (six) Safe Custody Homes. These Safe Custody Homes save the victims from suffering and humiliation by segregating them from their confinement in jails with adult and serious criminals. The Police Department has been assigned to ensure security of the residents of these Safe Custody Homes. Information regarding these 6(six) Safe Custody Homes are given below:

#### **Particulars of Safe Custody Homes**

SI No	Division	Location	Capacity
1.	Dhaka	Tepakhola, Faridpur	50
2.	Chittagong	Farhadabad, Chittagong	50
3.	Rajshahi	Baya, Rajshahi	50
4.	Khulna	Pachadighirpar, Bagerhat	50
5.	Barisal	Sagardi, Barisal	50
6.	Sylhet	Bagbari, Sylhet	50

The women, children or adolescents ordered by the court to be sent to the Safe Custody Homes are accommodated in the respective centre. The residents are provided food, clothing, formal education, medicare, trade training and recreational facilities including psychological counseling and legal aid. The main function of these Safe Custody Homes is, therefore, to put them in a completely new environment conducive to their safety and well-being along with upholding their human rights. On getting training in different trades, residents of the Homes sometimes get jobs which enable them to rehabilitate in the society helping these adolescents to get rid off the poverty. A total number of 2078 residents have been rehabilitated through this programme up to June 2007.



Residents of the Safe Home

#### 4.4.5. Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Socially Disadvantaged Girls

Children are the future of the nation and as such they are required to be groomed up and developed properly. But it is a matter of great concern that many poor and distressed girl-children are being used in commercial sex-work in brothels, hotels and other places by a group of anti-social elements through force, deception, allurements and other means.



In the context of social, moral and religious values of our society, sex work in brothels or other places is considered to be an immoral, sinful and unsocial activity for which they are not accepted in the society. Therefore, their future is gloomy and uncertain taking them in an extremely difficult and adverse life situation.

The children cannot be employed or forced into commercial sex work. Such act is clearly an act of sexual abuse of girl-children and violation of children rights. It is a serious and punishable offence. It is harmful to life of the children in question and the society at large is affected by it. Therefore, the state and the society should come forward to address this social problem in a proper way immediately.

## Objectives

With a view to addressing the above problem, the Ministry of Social Welfare initiated a programme namely, "Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Socially Disadvantaged Girls" by establishing six centres in six divisions. The programme has started with the objective to provide food, care, protection, development and socio-economic rehabilitation of the child sex-workers including the distressed girl-children who are exposed to risk of abuse or violation. Information regarding these centres are given below:

## Particulars of the Training and Rehabilitation Centre

Division	Location	Capacity
Dhaka	Baitul Aman, Faridpur	100
Rajshahi	Baropur, Bogra	100
Chittagong	No-2, Gas Field, Brahmanaria	100
Khulna	Battoil, Kustia	100
Barisal	Rupatali, Barisal	100
Sylhet	Khadimnagar, Sylhet	100

The legal basis of undertaking the programme is contained in different laws and conventions of the country which are as under:

- Provision of Article 18(2) of the Constitution of Bangladesh.
- Provisions of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933
- Provisions of Women & Children Oppression Restraint Act, 2000
- Provisions of Section 32 of the Children Act, 1974
- Provisions of the Sections 366(A), 372, 373 of the Penal Code
- Provisions of the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943.
- Provisions of Section 34 of the UNCRC.

## Activities

As per the provisions of the project, each Training and Rehabilitation Centre organises and implements the following activities under the guidance of Local Management Committee (LMC):

- a. Taking steps through the local administration, police department and other concerned authorities to rescue the child sex workers as per provisions of existing laws.
- b. Taking steps for rescue of girl-children who are exposed to risk of abuse and violation.
- c. Taking the rescued girl-children to the centres for care, protection and development aiming at their socio-economic rehabilitation through programmes mentioned below:
  1. Providing food, clothing, medicare, recreation, etc.
  2. Arranging proper medical treatment for the STD, HIV/AIDS and serious skin diseases
  3. Providing religious, moral, general and social education
  4. Arranging education on health, nutrition and housekeeping
  5. Providing counseling for correction and psycho-social development of the residents
  6. Providing skill development training on trades/vocations for income and employment generation
  7. Providing placement services for employment in suitable jobs
  8. Taking initiative for social rehabilitation of the residents through marriage and other suitable way
  9. Conducting mass awareness raising campaigns on the UNCRC with special emphasis on protection of girl-children from discrimination and abuse
  10. Promoting and strengthening social supports for socio-economic rehabilitation of the residents of the centres
  11. Arranging diversion programmes for correction and development of the residents.



## **Management of the Programme**

The programme of each centre is run by 29 staff members. A Local Management Committee (LMC) has been constituted for each centre to oversee and assist smooth functioning of the programme. The DSS and the local district office are responsible for regular supervision and monitoring. 335 residents have so far been rehabilitated in the society through this programme.

### **4.4.6. Programme for Socially Disadvantaged Girls (Sex Workers)- TA Project (Capacity Building, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihood of the Socially Disadvantaged Women and their Children)**

The project "Capacity-Building, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihood of the Socially Disadvantaged Women (SDW) and their Children" is a first of its kind of technical assistance project, launched in Bangladesh, by the Department of Social Services. With the financial assistance from the UNDP the programme has started in order to provide socially disadvantaged women and their children some facilities and services for their protection, care, empowerment and social integration through alternative livelihoods with the ultimate aim to alleviate their poverty.

The target population of this project are traditionally known as prostitutes or more appropriately called as commercial sex workers. The term Socially Disadvantaged Women (SDW) is preferred here in the social context of Bangladesh to avoid the social stigma associated with them. The different sources reveal that there are about 15-17 major brothels operating throughout the country accommodating approximately 25,000-35,000 socially disadvantaged women.

The project has taken a package programme for providing counseling, education, awareness and vocational training, resettlement investment fund (RIF), legal support so

that they may stand on their own feet and take decisions in choosing alternative professions to become respectable citizens of the society.



Hon'ble Social Welfare Advisor Geetara Safia Choudhury is distributing Blanket among the women of the Capacity Building Project

### The objectives of the project are

1. To create alternative environment for care, protection and development of the children of the socially disadvantaged women living in brothel and street situations, and assist them to be socially integrated
2. To empower and facilitate the SDW to alleviate their poverty, improve the life conditions and opt for alternative professions
3. To strengthen the legal and social support system and create favourable situations to ensure the rights, social dignity and other human aspects of the life of SDW and their children
4. To develop suitable technology, strategies, policies and a programme package to address the problems of the SDW and their children.



## Project activities

In order to achieve the objectives, the project aims to implement the following activities:

1. Advocacy, awareness, counseling, motivation for the SDW on gender inequality and human rights
2. Pre-formal and non-formal education for the SDW and their children
3. Crèche & basic education for the children of the SDW
4. Boarding facilities for the children of the SDW
5. Care and building awareness on issues related to health and hygiene, STD, HIV/AIDS, and environment
6. Vocational training for the SDW and adolescents on marketable trades that helps them pursue alternative livelihoods
7. Resettlement investment fund for the trained SDW and adolescents for self-employment and income generation.



Hon'ble Social Welfare Advisor is visiting Capacity Building Project

## The Main Components of the Project

To materialize of the project objectives, a total of eight main components have been identified to be implemented by the six partner NGOs. The service components are as follows:

1. **Crèche and basic education:** The children of the SDW between the age group from 0-5 years are accommodated and provided with food, clothing, healthcare, recreation and education.
2. **Formal Education of the Children:** The school going children of the target group in the age group from 6 to 11 have been targeted to receive formal education in the nearby Government primary school. The main purpose of this activity is to integrate them in the mainstream society.
3. **Non-formal education for the SDW and adolescent children:** One of the main activities has been designed to be provided to the women and the adolescent children with view to enhance their horizon. It has been found that within three months time most of the SDW and their children have come in a position to read and write. It has created immense confidence among the target group members.
4. **Boarding facilities:** Boarding facilities are provided to the selected women and children who are given vocational training as well as formal education.
5. **Health Care:** To make aware the SDW and their children regarding health hazard the project kept provision for counseling on health issues which includes awareness rising on STD/HIV/AIDS.
6. **Vocational training for the SDW and adolescent children:** Vocational training is the main component of project activity. The project has been imparting vocational training on different trades. This training will ultimately contribute to find out an alternative livelihood for the target group.



7. **Resettlement Investment Fund (RIF):** RIF will be provided to the SDW and the children (above 16 years) to be invested in the income generating activity. Special emphasis will be given those who are determined to opt for alternative livelihood and have completed vocational training successfully. The main thrust of this activity is to make provision for self-employment through which they will be brought in the mainstream society.
8. **Advocacy/Counseling on the legal rights:** The SDW and their children are ignorant about child and human rights. Moreover, their rights are often violated by vested groups. Therefore the project has included a component of advocacy on legal aid support system of the SDW and their children including others concerned as well as to sensitize the community.

#### Description of Project Budget and Expenditure (Up to June 2007)

(in million Taka)

Description	Fund Source		Total
	GoB	UNDP	
Project Budget	2.55	124.12	126.67
Project Expenditure	2.55	117.69	120.24

#### Names of partner NGOs with project sites and targets

The above-mentioned activities of the project were implemented by the following NGOs. The name of the partner NGOs along with the site and target is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the NGO	Name of the site	Target		
			Children	SDW	Total
1.	Nari Maitree	1. Mymensingh brothel	125	425	550
		2. Dhaka Street Based Zone No. Three	57	325	382
2.	PIACT-Bangladesh	Daulatdia brothel	200	900	1100
3.	ACLAB-Bangladesh	Jessore brothel	160	490	650
4.	Nari Unnayan Shakti	Dhaka Street Based Zone No. One	58	325	383
5.	DORP	Zone No. Two	58	325	383
6.	Consortium of INCIDIN and PIACT Bangladesh	Zone No. Four	57	325	382

The project had been working in four sites viz. 1. Dhaka Street based site (Zone one, two, three and four) 2. The brothel of Mymensingh Sadar 3. The brothels of Jessore Sadar (Maro mandir, Jhalai patti and Babu bazar) and 4. The brothel of Daulatdia ghat under Rajbari district.

The project covers a total of 3830 target group, of whom 3115 are SDW and 715 children. As per the provision of the approved Technical Assistance Project Profile (TAPP) and Project Document, the project was implemented through sub contracting the activities with the selected NGOs.



## **Achievements of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project up to June 2007:**

### **Some outstanding achievements of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase:**

- **Selected as the best practice:** The project was considered as the best practice in the Asia Pacific Region in 2005.
- **Introduction of the funeral rights:** The project had been able to introduce the funeral rites for the target group members, which was their long cherished demand and desire as the human being. Now, their dead bodies get due respect and due formalities and festivities like the dead bodies of the other people of the country.
- **Establishment of a graveyard:** The project established a graveyard at the Daulatdia (Rajbari district) site of the project. Now their dead bodies get burial in this graveyard with due religious procedure like other citizens of the country.
- **Establishment of a transparent accounting system:** The project had been able to establish a transparent accounting system therefore; there had been no audit observation in the audit from 2001 to 2006. This might be a success case for the other projects of the country.

### **Achievements in component for children:**

- Provided crèche and basic education to 690 children of age group 0-5 years.
- Provided boarding facilities to 1432 boys girls of age group 6-18 years
- Provided pre-formal education to 756 children to get ready to be admitted into the mainstream schools.
- Admitted 618 children into 22 mainstream schools & they had been making excellent results. One girl from Dhaka City Site-Zone-1, has obtained GPA-5 in the S.S.C. examination in 2007.
- Imparted life skill & vocational training to 868 boys & girls between the age group of 14-18.

- Provided Health care services to all 1100 children.
- Adolescents' children had been made aware on high risk of HIV/AIDS.
- Provided religious education to all targeted children. In the early morning they used to attend the Moktab regularly.
- The project had arranged exposure visit for the children to the historical places and in zoos to develop the mental health of the children in every after six month's intervals.

### **Achievements in component for SDW**

- Imparted vocational training on different market driven trades to 2237 Women
- Provided non-formal education to 2237 Women as package programme to those who had taken vocational training.
- Health care & health education on HIV/AIDS provided to 3830 Socially Disadvantaged Women (SDW). All the women living in brothels or streets were made 100 percent aware on the high risk factors of the deadly disease of HIV and AIDS. All of them knew about the way of transmission of these diseases.
- Arranged job placement for 99 SDW and they have been leading a very decent social life like other women of the country.
- Arranged self-employment for 168 SDW. All of them are running small businesses and earning good profit and leading normal social life.
- Provided Resettlement Investment Fund (RIF) to 35 SDW. The project took initiative to provide the said fund to about 335 women after completing their vocational training. But this process has stopped due to the sudden closure of the project.
- Provided religious education to all SDW to change their mindset so that they willingly come up to opt the alternative livelihoods.
- In order to stop the trafficking the project formed a committee in each sites to monitor and check the entry of minor girls in the sex profession and to stop the unlawful harassments by different vested interests.



- The project developed a system so that the representatives of the SDW could rotationally attend the Local Project Implementation Committee (LPIC) Meeting headed by the Deputy Commissioner of respective district. This increased/developed the dignity and self-recognition as well as social recognition and confidence among the target group members.
- Provided cultural teaching on music, playing, painting and drama etc. The cultural performance of the children was highly appreciated by all class of people.

### **Achievements in Policy Issues:**

- Policy issues had been the most critical part of this project. There had no explicit policy on the issues of SDW. Though in the constitution there are ample of provisions on the basic fundamental rights for all the citizens of the country. Therefore, the project had put its utmost attention to identify the relevant policy issues and recommend those to the appropriate authority for consideration. During the project period the project had organized series of community meetings and workshops to look for the opinions and suggestions with regard to policy issues to create an enabling environment for the SDW and their children.
- On the basis of the suggestions and recommendations of the workshops including a National one a policy had been prepared and circulated to all concerned for further inputs. The ministry on 21.5.2007 had approved the said policy.
- Besides this, the BIDS had also completed a research on the crucial issues of the project. BIDS in its research paper suggested some very important policy matter those will help the interested stakeholders to follow.

### **Achievements in component of Training/Seminar:**

- Organized different training, seminar, workshop on the issues of the legal rights of SDW and their children. A total of 3237 women and children attended in those trainings/workshops and seminars.
- Provided legal support to 363 women against the specific case of harassment. This system had helped the women from not being harassed by the different vested groups.
- The project developed a system to hire the professional lawyers to provide counseling in all sites regularly in each month.

### **Achievements mentioned in the different Missions Reports:**

The Mid-term and Final Evaluation conducted by UNDP/UNOPS and an evaluation undertook by the BIDS on the project, expressed that considering the socio-economic and cultural situation, this is a unique nature of project for the very particular group of population. These reports revealed that so far either the Government Organization or Non-Government Organizations to address the problems of the target group members or to encourage them to find any alternative options for their livelihood has undertaken no formal and comprehensive intervention. As a result, the number of women living in the brothel and street has been increasing more and more and their children and adolescent are becoming more vulnerable.

The Capacity Building project has created a strong public stand and unveiled a new horizon in the development agenda, which remained unattended. The project has achieved remarkable achievements by admitting the children and adolescents in the main stream schools, sensitizing the community, creating awareness on different issues including health and HIV/AIDS, establishing the funeral rights of target group, developing partnership. But still there are many issues relating to the planning, policies, system that are yet to be addressed in order to break the network of perpetual sexual exploitation, abuse, extortion, and harassment, violation including trafficking.

After the launching of the project, it has made positive progress in terms of achieving the objectives. It has enlisted local supports and created an enabling



environment for the participation of the SDW and their children in its various activities. If the current trend could continue and all stakeholders extend their cooperation, the project would expect to achieve its desired goal in providing opportunities for alternative livelihoods/professions to those women and their children living in inhuman situation.

Meanwhile, the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project has ended on 30 June 2007. And according to the decisions of TPR and LPAC meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase was supposed to be started from July 2007 for a period of five years. But ignoring all previous decisions UNDP unilaterally has stopped the project funding. It may be mentioned here that even in the CPAP, which is the legal document for implementing UNDP's programme in Bangladesh, signed by the Head of the Government and clearly stated that UNPD will provide financial support to the project in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase. In this prevailing situation the Ministry of Social Welfare with the help of ERD has been trying to explore funding for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase from potential donors. Side by side, a DPP has also been prepared to implement the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project through the GoB fund, if donors are not available.

#### **4.5. Disability Related Programmes**

Person with Disabilities (PWDs) are the most vulnerable and excluded group who should be addressed first by the government to reduce and alleviate their poverty and vulnerability within shortest possible time. Disabled people have the equal rights according to the Constitution of Bangladesh. The Disability Principle '95, Disable Welfare Act 2001, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have the provisions to establish the rights of the PWDs. The Ministry of Social Welfare and the DSS are addressing the economic and social issues of the PWDs since 1960's. But the coverage of the programmes is still very poor. The most important fact is that there is a great need of reliable and comprehensive data on disability for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes on disabilities. The Ministry of Social Welfare and the DSS has recently taken up a pilot project in six districts in six divisions of Bangladesh to collect comprehensive data on disability through signing a MoU with an international organisation Therap Bd. Ltd. The disability related programmes undertaken by the DSS are outlined below.

#### 4.5.1. Integrated Education Programme for the Visually Impaired (Blind Children)

Poverty, illiteracy, lack of knowledge about health, malnutrition, lack of hazardous jobs like welding, etc. are some of the major causes of blindness in the country. Due to malnutrition, a huge number of children become blind every year in Bangladesh. Due to lack of care, treatment, and training, the blind people are in a miserable condition. There is no specific survey of blind population and so it is difficult to indicate the exact number of blind people in the country.

The DSS is running the "Integrated Education Programme for the Visually Impaired (blind) Children" with a view to impart education with normal students. The students are taught in braille system, which requires braille books. The books are published by the braille press of the Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH), Tongi, Gazipur. Started functioning in 1974, the Programme has incorporated the syllabus of the Secondary Education System. Initially, under the programme, 47 units have been set up in selected normal secondary schools in 17 districts. Lessons learnt from the ongoing 47 units of the said programme, the programme has been expanded to 64 districts of the country have been covered through this programme and the number of units is now 64. The number of students in each school is 10. However, due to lack of teachers and hostels the number of students varies from school to school.

The programme helps the visually impaired children to get school education and social education and mobility training. Thus the programme aims at the development of the visually impaired students through education and training and makes them productive citizens of the country. It has been observed that they are capable to lead self-sufficient lives provided they are blessed with essential education and requisite training. The DSS has signed a MoU with an International NGO named the Sight Savers International to update and enhance Integrated Education Programme for the visually impaired students.

#### 4.5.2. Schools for the Visually Impaired

Visually impaired-ness is one of the major problems in our country. The causes that lead to this impaired-ness are conjunctiva and corneal infections, trachoma, etc.



#### **4.5.1. Integrated Education Programme for the Visually Impaired (Blind Children)**

Poverty, illiteracy, lack of knowledge about health, malnutrition, lack of vitamin, hazardous jobs like welding, etc. are some of the major causes of blindness in our country. Due to malnutrition, a huge number of children become blind every year in Bangladesh. Due to lack of care, treatment, and training, the blind people live in a miserable condition. There is no specific survey of blind population and so it is difficult to indicate the exact number of blind people in the country.

The DSS is running the "Integrated Education Programme for the Visually Impaired (blind) Children" with a view to impart education with normal students. They are taught in braille system, which requires braille books. The books are published in the braille press of the Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH), Tongi, Gazipur. Started functioning in 1974, the Programme incorporated the syllabus of the Secondary Education System. Initially, under this programme, 47 units have been set up in selected normal secondary schools in 47 districts. Lessons learnt from the ongoing 47 units of the said programme, the rest 17 districts of the country have been covered through this programme and the number of units is now 64. The number of students in each school is 10. However, due to shortage of teachers and hostels the number of students varies from school to school.

The programme helps the visually impaired children to get school education, social education and mobility training. Thus the programme aims at the development of the visually impaired students through education and training and makes them productive citizens of the country. It has been observed that they are capable to lead self-sustained lives provided they are blessed with essential education and requisite training. The DSS has signed a MoU with an International NGO named the Sight Savers International to update and enhance Integrated Education Programme for the visually impaired students.

#### **4.5.2. Schools for the Visually Impaired**

Visually impaired-ness is one of the major problems in our country. The causes that lead to this impaired-ness are conjunctiva and corneal infections, trachoma,

malnutrition, venereal disease, cataract, glaucoma, injuries, use of surma/ myopia, pox, diabetes, retinal hemorrhages, arteriosclerosis, etc. The educational opportunities provided by the DSS to the visually impaired, need to be updated by giving vocational training. In many developed countries, the industrial home or sheltered workshop provides such facilities.

The Government has taken steps for educating the visually impaired children in specialised institution. The Government established 4 visually impaired schools in 4 divisions in 1962 which are located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna. In 1965, another school was established for the visually impaired in Barisal. The schools provide education in Braille system and teach them how to move and how to walk with white cane. To impart education among the blind, which are severely impaired, they must be taught by Braille system while the partial sighted persons need to use magnifying glasses or books with large print. A good number of children have already received primary level education from these schools. Recently the DSS is considering a project to upgrade the primary school to high school level. The number of students in these schools is 240. In these schools, besides, education, they are getting training on mobility, bamboo and cane works and so on. This helps the trained students eligible for getting jobs suitable for them. In the private sector, there are institutions run by the NGOs where visually impaired children are taught and trained.

### Information about the Schools for the Visually Impaired

Sl.No.	Name and Location	Capacity
01.	Government School for the Blind, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka	30
02.	Government School for the Blind, Goalkhali, Khulna	50
03.	Government School for the Blind, Muradpur, Chittagong	50
04.	Government School for the Blind, Sagardi, Barisal	60
05.	Government School for the Blind, Shastitola, Rajshahi	50



### 4.5.3. School for the Hearing Impaired

The importance of language is obvious in all aspects of life, which plays a dominant role in communication. Hearing impaired children are cut off from communicating with the population at large, the hearing impaired children often grow up in relative isolation. Social and personality development are hampered for the hearing impaired due to communication gap. Hearing loss can have profound consequences for some aspects of a person's behaviour. Hearing impairment is a great barrier to the normal development of language. Nevertheless, the limitations cannot stop the achievement of human potentialities. We know that Helen Keller's achievement was unique in the history.

For providing education, training and rehabilitation, the DSS is running 7 schools for hearing impaired. Here 270 hearing impaired children are getting free food, lodging, education and training. They are also trained in sign language to express their aspirations, expectations and opinions easily, so that not only the trained personnel but also general people sometimes can guess their sign language. Under this programme besides education and training, other psychological and socialisation problems of the students are duly addressed. This education and training are provided to make the hearing impaired children as potential human resource and are employed in jobs suitable for them.

### Information about the Schools for the Hearing Impaired

Sl.No.	Name and Location	Capacity
01.	Government School for the Deaf and Dump, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka	30
02.	Government School for the Deaf and Dump, Goalkhali, Khulna	30
03.	Government School for the Deaf and Dump, Muradpur, Chittagong	30
04.	Government School for the Deaf and Dump, Faridpur	30
05.	Government School for the Deaf and Dump, Shastitola, Rajshahi	50
06.	Government School for the Deaf and Dump, Baburhat, Chandpur	50
07.	Government School for the Deaf and Dump, Sheikghat, Sylhet.	50

#### **4.5.4. Institute for the Mentally Retarded Children**

The National Policy on Disability 1995 and Bangladesh Disabled Welfare Act 2001-guarantee the equal rights and dignity of the Persons with Disabilities including the mentally retarded persons. The said Policy and Act ensure their full participation in social and state activities. Accordingly Government has taken initiative for those mentally retarded children who are comparatively less developed according to their age. These mentally retarded children need special attention on their orientation e.g. behaviour, education and medical treatment. The DSS strongly believes that proper education, training, care and guidance can help the mentally retarded children to live in a family environment.

The DSS has established an institution for the Mentally Retarded Children in Roufabad, Chittagong. Special educations, medicare, training facilities are provided there in accordance with causes and severity of the retardness. The total capacity of students in the institution is 100. Children between 6-12 years are allowed to be admitted into this institution. Food, lodging, recreation facilities and training are provided free of cost in this institution.

#### **4.5.5. Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH)**

The DSS has given much emphasis on the welfare and development of Persons with Disabilities. The DSS is running a number of programmes for the Persons with Disabilities. Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH) is one of the important institutions of the DSS. For training, rehabilitation and placement of the Persons with Disabilities, the DSS and Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) jointly established Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped at Station Road, Tongi, Gazipur in 1981.

#### **The ERCPH includes some integrated programmes which are as under Training Programme**

The ERCPH runs training programmes specially designed for the Persons with Disabilities . It provides training on mechanical workshop (Lethe, Milling, Welding), tailoring, wood works, poultry, nursery and cane works. 105 PWDs receive training every year from this institution. About 2092 PWDs have obtained training till June 2007. ERCPH also provides rehabilitation, grants-in-aid, housing facilities, medicare, sports and games, musical education for the PWDs.



## Rural Rehabilitation Sub-Centre

Under the ERCPH, a Rural Rehabilitation Sub-Centre was established in Fakirhat, Bagerhat in 1987. From this centre training facilities are provided for the PWDs of rural areas of nearby districts. The yearly capacity of the Sub-Centre is 50.

### 4.5.6. Braille Press

Supply of text books in braille form for the visually impaired student is of great importance. The ERCPH has taken an initiative to install a braille press. But it cannot meet the demand of the visually impaired students. Due to increasing demand, a computerised braille press has been installed with all modern facilities. The Braille press of the ERCPH has printed 12000 text books in braille form since inception. The books are supplied to the visually impaired students of all institutions free of cost.



Visually Impaired Student are receiving education through Braille Method.

#### 4.5.7. Plastic Goods Production Centre

A Welfare Trust for the welfare of physically handicapped was formed under the umbrella of the ERCPH. Under the trust a modernised plastic goods production unit namely Moitree Shilpa was established at the cost of Taka 136 million. The main objective of the Moitree Shilpa is to provide employment to the Persons with Disabilities in different trades of the Plastic Goods Production Centre as well as in other plastic industries. The other objective is to produce quality plastic goods on commercial basis to make the industry self-functioning and self sustaining. The Moitree Shilpa is producing house hold articles like plate, jug, glass, tea-cup, bucket, hanger, etc. The Government has issued a circular to all Government agencies to purchase plastic goods from Moitree Shilpa without any tender. This project is helping the Persons with Disabilities in respect of their reduction of poverty and becoming efficient industrial workers.



Persons with Disabilities are Producing Plastic Goods.

#### 4.5.8. Mineral Water Plant run by the Persons with Disabilities

For the welfare and creating employment facilities for the Persons with Disabilities, the DSS has taken a project named as Development and Modernisation of the Industries for the Physically Handicapped under Moitree Shilpa of the ERCPH. The



installation of mineral and drinking water plant is one of the major components of the same project, which is established at a cost of Taka 58.4 million.

The registered trade mark of the mineral/drinking water of the said plant is "MUKTA". The water plant purifies 3000 litres of water per hour in reverse osmosis method. The machineries of the plant have been imported from United States of America. The plant is producing 300 ml, 600 ml, 1000 ml, 1500 ml and 2000 ml size bottles for marketing. A good number of job facilities have been created for the Persons with Disabilities in this plant. Priority has been given to the Persons with Disabilities in getting the distributorship of mineral water in the different areas of the country. This is a unique effort for the Persons with Disabilities and probably the first instance in Bangladesh by the Persons with Disabilities.

#### **4.5.9. Artificial Limb Production Centre**

Production of assistive devices is one of the major agendas of declaration of the Beijing Conference in April 1992. During the recent years assistive devices have been produced by both the Government and by the NGOs. Artificial Limb Production Centre of the ERCPH is producing hearing aids, creche, legs and other assistive appliances for the PWDs. The devices are being supplied among the PWDs in a subsidized manner. Actually, the ERCPH is a leading institution in the country for the PWDs, from where they receive training and other facilities. Some NGOs also produce assistive devices for the PWDs.

#### **4.5.10. National Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired**

The National Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired is located in the premise of the ERCPH Tongi has been rendering services to the Persons with Disabilities since 1978. The centre provides training on bamboo and cane work, handicrafts and mobility. After completion of primary education any visually impaired child can receive training from this institute. The centre not only provides training but also provides free boarding and lodging. There are 50 Visually Impaired children receiving training every year.

The National Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired provides facilities for employment generation activities through self employment. Different mills and factories are searched for the disabled according to their capabilities and also helped them in finding self employment. The Persons with Disabilities, who can show their potentials in respective fields are getting jobs which in turn reduce their poverty to a great extent.

#### 4.5.11. Training Centre for Physically Handicapped

The Centre for Physically Handicapped is one of the oldest integrated programme of the DSS. In 1962, 4 centres were established in four divisions of the country for training and rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. To provide education and training to the visually and hearing impaired children these centres have been established. The centres cater services for the welfare and development of the Persons with Disabilities.



Training Centre of ERCPH



Besides the training, the centres provide services in accordance with the basic principles of UNCRC, agendas of ESCAP, standards rules of the UNO. The centres also have an awareness building and advocacy programme on impairment and disability and rehabilitation. To increase the educational facilities, the Government has given much attention. The DSS has taken an initiative to upgrade the school from Primary level to Secondary School level. A project named "Development of Existing Schools for Disabled Children" at a cost of Taka 94.8 million is being implemented to enhance the capacity from 550 to 1000 students. Some modern facilities have been introduced in the education and training programmes under the project plan.

#### **4.5.12. Job Placement services**

In every programme, training itself is not the goal of programme but treated as the means of achieving the goal. Training is useless if the trained person cannot be provided with jobs. Realising the fact, the DSS has introduced a Placement Service Programme with a view to rehabilitate the trained persons specially the trained Persons with Disabilities. The Placement Services under the ERCPH is playing a vital role to rehabilitate trained persons in different mills, factories and offices. After successful completion of training in different vocational trade courses, the trainees receive all sorts of co-operation and assistance from the Placement Services in getting jobs. Two placement officers are working there. Up to June 2007 about 593 trained Persons with Disabilities got jobs after getting training from ERCPH. Moreover, rehabilitation grant amounting Taka 4,000/- is also provided to each trained PWD to facilitate him to stay in the job at the starting. The Placement Services also help the trained Persons with Disabilities in self-employment through counselling, guidance and advice.

#### **4.5.13. Nine point short and long term programmes.**

##### **Special Programmes for the Persons with Disabilities**

The former office of the Prime Minister had given much importance on the disability issues and has taken a good number of pragmatic and dynamic programmes for the Persons with Disabilities. The aims of these programmes are to empower the Persons with Disabilities in all aspects of nation building activities and thereby reduce poverty. The important programmes are:

## Short term Programmes for the Persons with Disabilities

SL.	Name of Programmes
	<b>Short-term programmes</b>
a.	Set-up separate ticket counter for Persons with Disabilities to make their journey easier in all transports
b.	Reservation of the seat for Persons with Disabilities in bus, train and launch
c.	Maintain strictly 10% quota for Persons with Disabilities in Government services (For class III & IV employees)
d.	Open a complain box in the Department of Social Services for Persons with Disabilities to address all kinds of harassment
e.	To build ramp in public buildings for Persons with Disabilities
f.	Withdrawal of all embargoes in the employment of Persons with Disabilities in class I & class II posts of Government service.
	<b>Long-term programmes</b>
a.	Arrangement of Micro-credit programme for Persons with Disabilities.
b.	Arrangement to sale the products of the "Moitry Shipa" in Government offices without tender
c.	To increase the Grants-in-aid by 20% from the Government for the Jatiyo Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF).

With respect to all short-term programmes, the DSS has requested the MoSW to take action and to make correspondence to the concerned ministries. For the long-term



programmes, the DSS has started micro-credit programmes for the Persons with Disabilities and arranges selling of products of Maitree Shilpa to government offices without tender.

The Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation is also responsible to implement these programmes along with the DSS.

#### **4.6. Welfare and Service Delivery Programmes**

Providing medical facilities and health care is the prime duty of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. But it is also a fact that providing health services to poor patients is one of the important activities among social services. With this end in view, the DSS has extended its programme to establish several health oriented establishments in different hospitals and to provide medical services to the poor patients to help them.

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Social Welfare started health sector programmes in the 1970's. Among the important institutions, the Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM), DAB Cardiac Centre, National Heart Foundation, Institute of Child Health, Dhaka Community Hospital, Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM), Community Welfare and Health Care Centre of Bangladesh Medical are serving for the poor patients. There are provisions of treatment of the diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, children diseases, etc. for the millions of people of Bangladesh. 30% poor patients are treated freely by the above mentioned medical institutions.

##### **4.6.1. Hospital/ Medical Social Services Programmes**

The Hospital Social Services Programme started functioning in Dhaka Medical College Hospital, under the National Social Welfare Council in 1958 which was later transferred to the DSS. Now this programme has been expanded up to 87 hospitals in 64 districts under the direct supervision of the DSS.

The Hospital Social Work is much related with the medicare providers to enhance the effectiveness of care to the patients. Under this programme the Hospital Social Worker helps patients with social and psychological problem related to their illness. The Social Worker develops a good relation with the patient, so that they can express their difficulties with social worker and overcome the problems created by their illness.



Hospital Social Services

The Social Worker tries to understand all problem of the patient which is not possible for a physician due to his lack of time and other constraints. The Social Worker collects information of illness, causes of illness, treatment, family and economic condition, his social relationship, even the relationship with parent, husband or wife, children, state of mental peace, etc. This information immensely helps the physician to diagnosis the disease to treat properly.

### **The main activities of the Hospital Social Services are as follows**

- Paying the cost of medicine, all types of medical tests, diet, conveyance, etc.
- Financial assistance to the family of the patients during their treatment



- Curing the patients, giving more importance to their psychological affairs
- Helping the doctors for medical treatment of the patient after collecting socio economic information
- Identifying the poor and distressed patients for inclusion in medical social work programme from among the outdoor patients
- Referring the identified patients to different departments and to respective doctors according to illness
- Counseling with respect to inability to follow the suggested treatment, instructions of the doctor so that the illiterate patients can be benefited out of those treatment/instructions
- Helping the patient with clothes, crouch, artificial limbs, spectacles, blood, etc.
- Helping mentally and emotionally disturbed patients for their mental cure
- Helping the patient to remain free from anxiety by making communication with their family members in the long term medical treatment
- Provide counseling and guidance on family planning, child health care and also to make them conscious about all kinds of contagious diseases
- Follow-up of the patients regarding their soundness of health and rehabilitation
- Arrangement are made for the unclaimed babies to get them admitted in the Baby Homes
- If necessary, the helpless and poor patients are provided with micro-credit to reduce their poverty and include in the poverty alleviation programme.

### **Patients Welfare Association**

To encourage the voluntary participation with the Government efforts, there is a voluntary organisation in each hospital named Patients Welfare Association. This organisation is registered with the DSS under Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies

(Registration and Control Ordinance) 1961. There are 87 Patient Welfare Association in Bangladesh. These Associations consist of the members from the Government and non-Government sectors. The main objective of this Association is to raise fund and to create facilities for rendering financial help to the poor patients. The Hospital Social Services Officer who is the ex-officio Member Secretary of the said Association implements the decisions of the Association. The Director of the Hospital or the Civil Surgeon is the Chairman of the Association. The Association receives yearly grants in aid from the National Council of Social Welfare. The Association also raises funds from welfare associations and NGOs with the help of the Deputy Commissioner, the Civil Surgeon, the Superintendent of Police and other district level officers of the Government. A total number of about 200 million patients have been benefited through this programme up to June 2007.

#### **4.6.2. Financial Assistance for Treatment and Rehabilitation of the Burn-victims**

The unconscious use or abuse of gunpowder, acid, liquid chemical, fire and other combustible substances have caused burn accident sometimes. Many people have become jobless and dependant owing to burnt accident. The problem cannot be uprooted or overcome in a short period of time. But it is possible to decrease the number of burn accidents by awareness building of the general mass. The physical spot of burning is incurable. The victims may get back to their normal lives if they are brought under proper treatment in time. It is the joint responsibility of the society and the state to provide help and assistance for immediate and proper medical treatment and rehabilitation of burn affected distressed people.

The Department of Social Services has given due importance to the issue and has undertaken a project titled as "Financial Assistance for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Distressed Burn-victims" at a cost of Taka 50 million. The project is now being implemented all over the country. 6750 burnt victims have been benefited through this programme up to June 2007. In the meantime the project has created a positive impact on the target people. It is treated as a social risk protection programme.



## **The activities of the project**

1. Conduct a socio-economic survey for collecting list of persons physically affected by burn
2. Arrange treatment for the burn affected person with special care where treatment facilities are available in the country. Assist and bear the treatment and other cost of the physically burn affected persons whenever they come to the hospital for treatment
3. Provide financial assistance to the burn-victims to build up capacity through vocational training
4. Organise orientation training/workshop/seminar for the persons involved in the work of implementing the project activities.

### **4.7. Human Resource Development and Capacity Building through Training**

For the proper implementation of the programmes of the DSS, it is required that there should be regular and effective training programme for its officers and employees. Human resource development is very much related with the poverty alleviation programme. Education and training are the factors, which make a person effective in performing his duties perfectly. The DSS has established a National Training Academy and six Regional Training Centres for the above purposes.

#### **4.7.1. National Academy of Social Services (NASS)**

The Social Welfare programme was initiated by the Government in 1955 with technical and financial assistance from the UN by organizing and implementing some training programmes for the social workers which are now recognized as important development intervention in Bangladesh.

The DSS works with the objectives of planning, organising and implementing social services programmes in the public sector and promoting voluntary social welfare agencies to function as partners in development in the field of social welfare.

## Importance of Training and Training Academy

The DSS has 47 multidimensional programmes. More than 12 thousand officers and staffs are serving under the DSS including 1088 class-1 officers. To enrich and enhance the knowledge and skill of the employee, training is an essential component to achieve the desired goal. In this respect the Academy has a vital and important role in imparting and improving training.



Mr. M. A. Hye Howlader is addressing in foundation course arranged by the National Academy of Social Services.

## Establishment of Academy

The training programmes for the social workers started initially in March 01, 1963 through a UNICEF assisted project namely 'Child Welfare Centre'. This was handed over to the Government and transferred as "Social Welfare In-service Training Centre" in February 01, 1967.

During the second Five Year Plan (1980-85) the Social Welfare In-Service Training Centre was upgraded to "National Social Welfare Academy" by implementing a



development project. In 1984, The Administrative Reorganisation Committee renamed this institution as the "National Academy of Social Services (NASS)". The Academy building is a six storied one where Academy Office, Regional Training Centre, Cafeteria, Library, Training Room, Computer Room and accommodation for trainees are provided.

### Activities of the NASS

- 1) Prepare the Course Schedule for all courses of training
- 2) Conduct Foundation Courses for Officers recruited at the entry level
- 3) Conduct both long-term and short-term training courses for the field level officers
- 4) Organize and conduct refresher training courses for different categories of employees
- 5) Conduct training courses for Teachers/Instructors in specialised field of services, such as, the training and rehabilitation of the physically handicapped persons, the deaf, blind etc.
- 6) Organize and conduct special training programme for the Trade Instructors/Vocational Instructors
- 7) Conduct survey and research in the field of social services and publish reports
- 8) Conduct seminar, workshops on different social problems/social services and submit recommendations for action plan
- 9) Guide and supervise the works of the Regional Training Centre of Social Services.

The National Academy of Social Services has recently introduced the Computer Courses and English Language Courses to meet the present demand of the programmes.

#### 4.7.2. Regional Training Centres

Besides the National Social Services Academy, the DSS runs 6 Regional Training Centres in 6 divisions. The Regional Training Centres provides training programme for the grass root level staff and voluntary social worker of the respective area. Field supervisor, Union Social Worker, Trade Instructor, Office Assistant, Baro

Bhaiya/Khalamma and Matron-cum-Nurse of the DSS receives training from this centre. The curriculum of the Regional Training Centres is designed in accordance with the Implementation Manual/Guidelines of different Programmes/Project. Besides, the departmental programmes, activities of other nation building departments and office management procedure, maintenance of files, records are also the subjects of the training courses.

#### **4.8. Community Empowerment Programmes through Voluntary Works**

Voluntary activity may be defined as an activity undertaken, with partial or complete support from outside sources, by any person or organization to render voluntary services pertaining to social welfare and services, agricultural, educational, cultural, vocational, relief, missionary activities and other developmental activities in the society.

Voluntary social welfare agency means an organization, association or undertaking established by persons of their own free will for the purpose of rendering welfare services in any one or more of the fields mentioned above.

Bangladesh has a long history of volunteerism, which is embedded into its culture. It is one of the countries that have vibrant vocal and strong non-government and civil society organizations. Bangladeshi NGOs are well-known for their innovative approaches. It hosts world's largest and biggest NGOs. The potential role and contribution of voluntary organizations in poverty reduction and sustainable development of the country are remarkable.

##### **4.8.1. Registration, Control and Empowerment of the Voluntary Organisations**

The DSS is empowered by the Government to act as one of the Registration Authorities of voluntary organisations under the Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance 1961. Since inception, the DSS has been playing an important role in registering the non-profitable and non-political voluntary organisations with a view to mobilize local resources for nation building activities and develop human



potentialities. Observing formalities of the aforesaid Ordinance voluntary associations are registered. The power of giving registration has now been decentralized and on behalf of the Director General of the DSS, the Deputy Directors of the concerned districts are acting as the Registration Authority. The registered organisations are generally allowed to work on the following subjects:

1. Child welfare
2. Youth welfare
3. Women's welfare
4. Welfare for physically disabled and mentally retarded
5. Family planning
6. Prevention of anti social activities and provide recreational activities
7. Social and adult education for creating social responsibilities
8. Welfare and rehabilitation of released prisoners
9. Welfare programme for juvenile delinquents
10. Welfare programme for vagrant and destitute
11. Welfare programme for socially disadvantaged
12. Patient welfare and rehabilitation
13. Welfare programme for aged and physically unsound
14. Training programme social activities
15. Programme for the co-ordinations among the voluntary organisations.

About 48000 voluntary organisations have been registered with the DSS since inception. Every voluntary organization would perform its activities in accordance with the Constitution duly approved by the Registration Authority. Every registered agency shall have to maintain audited accounts and publish annual reports and have to submit those to the registration authority. Every agency should have to keep a separate account in the bank for all money received by it. The main objective of control and monitoring the organisation is to establish transparency and accountability among the organisations and follow the democratic values.

#### 4.8.2. GO-NGO Collaboration and Co-ordination with the DSS

In recent times it is needl ss to say that any development efforts cannot be achieved without people's participation. From this reality, collaboration and cooperation between GO and NGOs are much essential for human resource development and poverty reduction. For the purpose of optimum utilisation of resources, improve or enhance partnership and reducing duplication in development efforts, coordination between the NGOs and the DSS is of utmost importance. The DSS has institutional structures at District, Upazila and even in the Union Parishad level. There are training centres at the Divisional level also. The effective use of this facility may contribute to improve environment for people's participation.

The Government recognises the role of non-Government organisations in supplementing the Government efforts for the implement of various social development programmes. For community empowerment, project aids and grants in aids are also provided to the voluntary organizations by the Social Welfare Council and Jatiyo Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation every year. From time to time the DSS organises seminar, symposium, workshop and conference etc. to make them aware with the plans and programmes of the Government and to get feed back of their activities



Launching ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Social Services and Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association.



Voluntary Organisations Registered under DSS are playing important role in poverty reduction. The organisational objectives of most of the voluntary organisations are to promote socio-economic development of the vulnerable groups like women, children, youth, landless and assetless persons and PWDs through capacity building and provision of various inputs for income-generating activities. These activities are related to increase of employment, self-employment and self-reliance. The programmes of the voluntary registered organisations are very much related with the Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Government. For better implementation of PRSP, the voluntary social welfare organisations may be strengthened by increasing their activities through mobilizing more resources and by giving training to personnel involved in these organisations.

Special attention for alleviation of poverty of the disadvantaged and by-passed people will continue in the future. These disadvantaged people include the rural and urban poor, unemployed men and women, vagrants, destitute, Persons with Disabilities, youth offenders, poor patients, older people and other underprivileged segments of the population. The voluntary agencies can come up with small projects to be executed by the DSS and the concerned agency. There are good practices by the DSS in respect of GO-NGO collaborations in the field of health sector projects.

The Department of Social Services has recently signed a number of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the development partners. The names of development partners are given below:

SL. No.	MoU Signing Parties	Date of Signing	Areas of Cooperation
1	2	3	4
1.	DSS with Helen Keller International, Bangladesh	24/09/2001	Improvement of the quality and coverage of Integrated Education Programme of Department of Social Services
2.	DSS on behalf of The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh with Save the Children-UK, Bangladesh Programme	16/09/2002	Improvement of Adolescent Development Centre facilities.

1	2	3	4
3.	DSS on behalf of The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh with Save the Children-UK, Bangladesh Programme	14/05/2006	Improvement of Adolescent Development Centre facilities.
4.	DSS with Concern-Bangladesh	14/06/2005	Protection, Care and Rehabilitation Programme for Socially Disadvantaged
5.	DSS with Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind- (RCSB)- Sightsavers International	09/08/2006	Improvement of the quality of education for children with disability, particularly visually impaired children.
6.	DSS with Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA)	15/07/2007	Improvement of the life status of sheltered women and children at government shelter homes.
7.	DSS, JPUF with NFOWD and Therup (BD) Ltd.	17/09/2002	Implementation of a Pilot Project for Developing a National Database on the Persons with Disabilities.
8.	DSS with Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (MSP-VAW) of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	19/09/2007	Education, training and health care programme for the residents of Safe Homes

## Future Plan of Actions

- The DSS has a long term plan to promote voluntary agencies and volunteers
- Formulate better policy of cooperating NGOs and amend related laws and rules
- Management training for the volunteers
- Prepare database for the NGOs
- Help the Government to establish a National Coordinating Body of these organizations.



## **4.9. Research and Publications**

Research, monitoring, evaluation and publication are very important for a development and service oriented department like the DSS. Without monitoring and evaluation, it is not possible to know how the programmes and projects are being implemented. Interim evaluation is particularly important to correct the faults occurred during implementation. Publication is required to acknowledge the people, stakeholders and researchers for further development of the programmes and activities. Research is also very important for the future guide of the activities of the department. So the DSS has developed Research and Publication Wing to become the treasure of information of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

### **4.9.1. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Department of Social Services conducts research work on various social problems and also evaluates the ongoing programmes. In the meantime the DSS has conducted research and evaluation work on the Old Age Allowances Programme, Urban Community Development Programme, Rural Social Services Programme etc. There is a Monitoring, Evaluation and Inspection Section of the Department. Through this section ongoing field level programmes are monitored. Feed back, direction and guidance are given from Head Office to the field offices after examining the evaluation reports.

### **4.9.2. Arrangement of Publication, Publicity, Seminar, Workshop, Advocacy Programmes**

The Department of Social Services has recently become successful in creating public awareness about the programmes and social problems through publication, publicity, seminar, workshop and advocacy programmes. The Public Relation Section of the DSS covers programmes and news of the high officials and publishes the same in electronic and print media regularly.

In recent times, the DSS has published 39 books, leaf-lets and brochures. These publications are distributed to different authorities and people get information based idea about the DSS as well as of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

The DSS conducts work-shop, seminar to create public awareness on various social issues. The DSS also arranges exhibition of the products of different Shishu Paribars, Training Centres of the DSS as a part of advocacy programme. The DSS observes concerned National and International Days with active co-operation of NGOs. The important days are National Disabled Day, International Disabled Day, World White Cane Safety Day, International Elderly Day, International Family Day etc. Besides, the DSS arranges National Fair with the products made by the Persons with Disabilities .

#### **4.9.3. Preparation/Amendment of Law, Rules, principles, Manuals, etc.**

The DSS is implementing its programmes in line with existing laws of land. Besides, the DSS is responsible to implement some acts which are directly concerned with programmes of the DSS. The acts are (i) Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943, (ii) Orphanage and Widow Home Act 1944, (iii) Probation of Offenders Ordinance 1960 (Amended in 1964) (iv) The Bangladesh Probation of Offenders Rules 1971 (v) The Children Act, 1974, (vi) The Children Rules 1976, (vii) Voluntary Social Welfare Organisations (Registration and Control) Ordinance 1961, (viii) Voluntary Social Welfare Organisation (Registration and Control, Rules 1962, (ix) Special Opportunities for the Women in Jails Act, 2006, (x) The Gazetted Officer and Staffs (Department of Social Services) Recruitments Rules 1984 (Amended in 1996). Moreover the DSS has published a series of implementation manual and guide-line to run the programmes smoothly.

The DSS published the Implementation Manuals on the following programmes:

- (i) Old Age Allowance Programme
- (ii) Rehabilitation Programme for the Acid Burnt Women and Physically Handicapped
- (iii) Baby Home
- (iv) Vocational Training Centre for the Orphans and Destitute Children
- (v) Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Socially Disadvantaged Girls
- (vi) Sarkari Shishu Paribar (State Orphanages)



- (vii) Financial Assistance for Treatment and Rehabilitation of the Distressed Burn-Victims
- (viii) Programme on Mitigating Risk from National Disaster
- (ix) Audit Manual
- (x) Urban Community Development Programme
- (xi) National Social Welfare Policy
- (xii) Allowances for the Insolvent Persons with Disability.

The DSS is working on amendment of existing laws and preparing new laws as and when required.

#### **4.10. Poverty Alleviation through Implementation Annual Development Plan (ADP)**

In conformity with the national policy and plan of the Government and to follow the guidelines in the PRSP, the DSS is implementing a good number of development projects in both public and private sectors.

The DSS believes in achieving the main objectives of the overall development and mainstreaming with the participation of hardcore poor in the society. These poor include orphans, disabled, distressed children, patients, unclaimed babies, vagrants, juvenile delinquents, adolescent girls, socially disadvantaged women and girls, acid and other burn victims, victims of road accident, etc. The DSS generally designs the development projects giving priority in poverty reduction, women empowerment, self-employment, child welfare and social protection and health care services for the poor people.

#### **The specific objectives of development projects includes**

1. To give emphasis on poverty reduction and human resource development issues in project planning
2. To create self employment opportunities

3. To protect the rights and dignity of the target people
4. To involve the target people in the project implementation process
5. To incorporate technical assistance in the possible area
6. To empower and strengthen the private sectors which are related to social and human development issues
7. To equalise of gender balance in project planning
8. To provide health facilities to the poor people.

### List of Implemented, ongoing and future projects are given below

#### 4.10.1. Recently Implemented Development Projects

(Taka in Million)

Sl.	Name of the Project	Cost
1.	Conversion of the Sarkari Shishu Sadan to Sarkari Shisu Paribar, Phase- I & II	1582.85
2.	Expansion and Development of Urban Community Development Programme, Phase- I & II	114.50
3.	Treatment and Financial Assistance for the Burn-Victims distressed and Poor	50.00
4.	Capacity building- Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihood of Socially Disadvantaged Women and their Children	126.60
5.	Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children Environment (ARISE)	228.21
6.	Rural Social Services, Phase- I-VI	2903.47
7.	Establishment of Institution for Deaf and Dump, Dinazpur	37.20
8.	Expansion and Modernization of Gaoshul Azam BNSB- Eye Hospital Dinazpur	24.20
9.	BIRDEM Hospital I-IV	390.09
10.	Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) Cardiac Centre	390.10



Sl.	Name of the Project	Cost
11.	Establishment Mujibnagar Complex Shisu Paribar	30.30
12.	Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Socially Disadvantaged Girls	202.22
13.	Establishment of Baby Home	94.50
14.	Training and Rehabilitation Project for Orphan, Destitute and Floating Children, Faridpur Muslim Mission	92.30
15.	Construction and Expansion of Existing Building of the Bangladesh National Blind Association, Comilla	46.46
16.	Bangladesh National Blind Association Jhinaidha	50.38
17.	National Correctional Centre for the Juvenile Delinquents Girls, Gazipur	66.11
18.	Expansion and Development of the Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Vagrants and Destitute	159.25
19.	Modernization and Development of Industry of Physically Handicapped	195.00
20.	Establishment and Development of Regional Training Centre	61.25
21.	Establishment of 175 bedded Community Hospital, Dhaka (I-II)	155.03
22.	Implementation of National Population programme Through Rural Mother Centre, Phase-I-VI	1020.67
23.	Development of the Schools for Disabled Children	94.36
24.	National Heart Foundation Hospital (Phase I-II)	349.20
25.	Expansion and Development of Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Hearing Impaired	26.30
26.	Improvement of the Treatment and Rehabilitation Facilities for Diabetic, Diabetic Related and non-Diabetic Patient, Dinajpur	32.36
27.	100 Bedded Zia Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Centre, Dinajpur	362.58

Sl.	Name of the Project	Cost
28.	Shanti Nibash	135.43
29.	Development of Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine	90.00
30.	Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Jail Prisoner (Men & Women), Mirpur, Dhaka.	27.60
31.	Integrated for the Educational Programme for the Visually Impaired Children.	34.00
32.	Institute of Child Health, Mirpur, Dhaka.	43.50
33.	Community Welfare and Health Care of Bangladesh Medical Studies and Research Institute, Dhaka.	99.80
34.	Safe Home for the Destitute Girls, Konabari, Gazipur.	8.10
35.	Training and Rehabilitation Centre for Orphan Destitute Children (Boys and Girls), Faridpur Muslim Mission, Faridpur.	92.30
36.	Establishment of Sharkari Shishu Paribar, Bandarban.	48.75
37.	Establishment of Sharkari Shishu Paribar at Mujibnagar Complex.	31.10
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>9496.07</b>

#### 4.10.2. Ongoing Development Projects

(Taka in Million)

Sl.	Name of the Project	Cost
1.	Bangladesh Institute the Rehabilitation of the Disabled Mirpur, Dhaka	45.07
2.	Establishment of 6 Vocational Training Centre for the Orphans and Disabled Boys and Girls in 6 Divisions	469.05
3.	Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled and Adolescent, Arambagh Eatimkhana, Faridpur.	70.64
4.	Modernization of the Existing 20 Sarkari Shishu Paribar	177.50



Sl.	Name of the Project	Cost
5.	Liver Transplantation Services of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh	117.30
6.	Modernisation of medicare and Rehabilitation project for the Diabetic, Diabetic related and non-Diabetic Patients, Nilphamari	40.80
7.	OGBS Hospital and Institute of Reproductive and Child Health	157.00
8.	Sirajgonj Diabetic Association General Hospital	84.88
9.	Modernisation of Medicare, establishment of Research and out door centre under National Heart Foundation	127.20
10.	Establishment of National Heart Foundation, Sylhet	98.39
11.	Expansion and Development of Faridpur Diabetic Association Hospital	184.00
12.	Modernisation of Medicare and Rehabilitation Project for the Diabetic, Diabetic related and non-Diabetic Patient, Kurigram	138.70
13.	Strengthening and Development Existing UCD (50)	28.80
14.	Construction of 50 bedded Eye Hospital, Bangladesh National Blind Association, Comilla	70.52
15.	Protection of Children at Risk (PCAR)	19.42
16.	Juvenile Development Centre	168.13
17.	Shishu Hospital Jessore	50.90
18.	Establishment of Residential School for Deaf and Dump, Jhinaidah	48.60
19.	Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital Dhaka	345.23
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>5690.45</b>

#### 4.10.3. Future Plan for the Medium Term Macroeconomic Framework

The DSS as one of leading nation building departments is responsible to implement the human resource development and poverty alleviation programmes of the Government. The DSS is planning to implement more social protection programmes

(social safety net and social security) in line with commitment of UNO, SAARC, ESCAP and other national and international forum and bodies. The future plan of action are designed with the objectives of PRSP of the Government and other international convention but carefully highlighting on national culture and heritage. The DSS has a plan to implement the following projects in the Medium Term Macroeconomic Framework for 2007-2008.

### **Proposed Project under Medium Term Budget of 2007-2008**

Sl.	Name of the Project
1.	Capacity Building, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihood of the Socially Disadvantaged Women and their Children
2.	Establishment of 36 Unit Hostel building for the Visually Impaired Children
3.	Expansion and Development of Existing Vagrants Homes (Phase-II)
4.	Establishment of 20 Shishu Paribar and 1 Safe Home in 21 Sub-Jails transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
5.	Social Services and Medicare for Prevention and Control of HIV and Skin Diseases, Mirpur, Dhaka.
6.	Modernization and Development of the Industry for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH), Tongi, Gazipur-2nd Phase.
7.	Socio-Economic Development of Slum Dweller of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi & Khulna Divisional City.
8.	Expansion and Development of Barishal Heart Foundation and Research Centre
9.	Construction of Diabetic Heart & Disabled Centre, Satkhira
10.	Establishment of TN Mother Child & General Hospital
11.	Establishment of Community Eye Hospital, Madaripur
12.	Development, Expansion & Modernization of Department of Social Services
13.	Establishment of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital
14.	Establishment of Mother & Child Welfare centre in 5 Divisions
15.	Building construction, development of existing program & expansion of Mst. Sabera Khatun Islamia Shishu Sadan
16.	Poverty Reduction through self employment of the under privileged people of the Northern 5 Districts



## **Chapter V**

### **Bangladesh National Council of Social Welfare**

#### **5.1. Background**

Bangladesh National Council of Social Welfare is an attached office of the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW). The then Central Government of Pakistan established National Council of Social Welfare in 1956 by a resolution to address the problems arose from rapid industrial and agricultural development. In line with the aims and objectives of the Pakistan National Council of Social Welfare, the Government established East Pakistan National Council of Social Welfare. The same Council has again reconstituted in 1972 in accordance with hopes and aspirations of independent and sovereign state. The Government has further amended the said resolution on 25 January 2003. The existing National Council of Social Welfare has been functioning under provision of latest Resolution. At present the Council Consists of 82 members. The Honourable Minister/ Advisor of Social Welfare is the Chairman of the National Council of Social Welfare and Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare acts as Vice Chairman. The Joint Secretary of the MoSW performs the duty as the Treasurer. The Executive Secretary of the Council is the Member Secretary of the Council. There is a 15 members Executive Committee of the Council headed by the Secretary MoSW. The Executive Committee implements the decisions of the National Social Welfare Council.

Moreover, there are District Social Welfare Council and Upazila Social Welfare Council in each District and Upazila. The Deputy Commissioners and Upazila Nirbahi Officers act as the Chairmen of the aforesaid Councils respectively.

#### **5.2. Function of the National Council of Social Welfare**

The National Council of Social Welfare performs different functions. To inspire the Voluntary Social Welfare organisations, the Council provides grants in aid. The Council also provides training on organisational management and strategy to implement the poverty reduction programmes. The Council studies social problems and prepares recommendations. The Council also arranges seminars, work-shop on various social issues. A short description of the main functions of National Council of Social Welfare is given below:

- Arrangement of workshop seminar on high risk social problems
- To organise the voluntary social workers in nation building activities
- To empower the voluntary social welfare organisation
- To provide training of the voluntary social welfare organisation
- To provide training of the voluntary social workers
- To mobilize the local resources
- To identity the social problems
- To conduct survey on social issues
- Arrangement of exchange views and ideas among the organisations both home and abroad.
- Provides grant in aid among the organisation
- To provide income generation fund among the organisations
- Publish news letter on activities of the organisations
- To act as apex and coordinating body of the voluntary organisations
- Performs other functions assigned by the government.



Mr. M. A. Hye Howlader, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare  
is distribution Grants in Aid of Bangladesh National Council of Social Welfare.



### 5.3. Activities

#### 5.3.1. Distribution of Grant in Aid

At present, there are about 50,000 registered voluntary organisations in the country. These organisations are playing a vital role in the socio-economic development of the country. As the recognition of nation building activities of the voluntary social welfare organisations, the Council provides grants in aid among some organisations every year. A description on grants in aid given is below from 2000-2001 to 2005-2006.

#### 2001-2002 fiscal year

Sl. No	Type of Institution/ Organisation	Number of Institution/ Organisation	Amount of Money (Taka)
1.	National/Important Institutions/Organisation	47	14,00,000/-
2.	Programme Co-ordination Council of UCD	51	11,00,000/-
3.	Patient Welfare Association	84	39,90,400/-
4.	Correction and Rehabilitation Association for the Offenders	26	6,17,500/-
5.	General Institution/Organisation	2789	85,00,000/-
6.	Income Generating Institution Organisation	162	30,00,000/-
7.	Special Grants in Aid (Institution)	Institution - 926	25,09,000/-
		Total Organisation -4085	2,11,16,900/-
8.	Special Grants in Aid (person)	person - 390	5,41,000/-
		<b>Total Taka :</b>	<b>2,16,57,900/-</b>

**2002-2003 fiscal year**

1.	National/Important Institution/Organisation	9	9,45,000/-
2.	Programme Coordination Council of UCD	54	11,00,000/-
3.	Patient Welfare Association	85	40,00,000/-
4.	Correction and Rehabilitation Association for the Offenders	37	6,30,000/-
5.	General Institution/Organisation	3381	85,00,000/-
6.	Income Generating Institution /Organisation	283	30,00,000/-
7.	Special Grants in Aid (Institution)	Institution - 1111 Total Organisation - 4915	23,36,000/- 2,05,11,000/-
8.	Special Grants in Aid (person)	person - 1243	13,49,000/-
		<b>Total Taka :</b>	<b>2,18,60,000/-</b>

**2003-2004 fiscal year**

1.	National/Important Institution/Organisation	16	11,25,000/-
2.	Programme Coordination Council of UCD	59	11,00,000/-
3.	Patient Welfare Association	86	40,50,000/-
4.	Correction and Rehabilitation Association for the Offenders	46	6,30,000/-
5.	General Institution/Organisation	3323	85,00,000/-
6.	Income Generating Institution /Organisation	267	27,51,000/-
7.	Special Grants in Aid (Institution)	Institution - 1213 Total Institution - 5010	24,64,000/- 2,06,20,000/-
8.	Special Grants in Aid (person)	person - 743	9,46,000/-
		<b>Total Taka :</b>	<b>2,15,66,000/-</b>



1100	1,10,00,000/-
- 1558	33,65,000/-
- 9149	5,46,80,000/-
- 3665	37,25,000/-
<b>Taka :</b>	<b>5,84,05,000/-</b>

### 5.3.2. Training Programme of Bangladesh National Council of Social Welfare

The Voluntary Social Welfare Organisations are run by the voluntary social workers. Bangladesh National Council of Social Welfare provides training to the social workers to make them efficient in development and voluntary activities. The Council has been arranging training course titled as " Management of Voluntary Social Welfare Organisations" since 1999-2000. A description of the training is given below :

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Number of Courses	Duration of Courses	Number of Trainees		
				Female	Male	Total
1.	2001-2002	10	3 days	38	194	232
2.	2002-2003	9	3-5 days	58	199	257
3.	2003-2004	10	4-6 days	62	186	248
4.	2004-2005	12	4-6 days	43	272	315
5.	2005-2006	15	4-5 days	41	347	388
6.	2006-2007	12	4-5 days	25	262	287

### 5.3.3. Research Work

Research work is an important function of the Council. The Council has undertaken a research work on "Impact of Grants in Aid in Income Generating Activities of Voluntary Organisations" to evaluate success of programmes on income generation and mode of expenditure. Bangladesh Social Welfare Council provides Grants in Aid to the different types of organisations every year. To evaluate the achievement of the target people who have received Grants in Aid, the Council has undertaken another research work namely "Registered Organisations under Ministry of Social Welfare : A National study" in 2003.



#### **5.3.4. Seminar/ Workshop**

Bangladesh National Council of Social Welfare regularly arranges workshop and seminar every year. Recently the Council has arranged some important seminars on "Poverty Reduction and the Role of National Social Council", "Dowry is a Social Problems", "Beggary - Problems and Remedies" and "Treatment and prevention of Drug Addiction: Perspective Bangladesh."

#### **5.3.5. Identification Social Problems and Recommendations**

Identification of social problems and make recommendations is one of the prime functions of the National Council of Social Welfare. There is a committee on "Identification of Social Problems" and make recommendations. The Committee in the meantime has identified some social problems, like ill effect of Dowry, Beggary, Drug Use etc. The Council has arranged Round Table Conference on "Dowry : A Social Problems against Religion and Ethics" on 20-6-2004 at CIRDAP auditorium and "Beggary : Problems and Remedies" on 22-06-2006 in the auditorium of the Department of Social Services, Dhaka. The recommendations of round table conferences are being examined and further follow up actions are being considered by the Ministry through undertaking some projects by the DSS.

## Chapter VI

### Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF)

#### 6.1. Background

A good number of people are disabled in many form in Bangladesh, such as physical, mental, hearing impaired, visual impaired, etc. According to WHO, the number Persons with Disabilities are 10% of total population. The causes of disabilities are natural disaster, accident, malnutrition, lack of proper treatment environmental pollution etc. Persons with Disabilities are often neglected in our society. With a view to mainstreaming the Persons with Disabilities in the society, the Government established Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) on 16 November 1999. The Foundation is a registered organisation under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

#### 6.2. Restructured Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF)

Initiative to restructure the JPUF was taken in January 2007 after adoption of UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the UN General Assembly. The Government also felt that the Foundation needs to be given autonomy to make it an organization for the disabled, by the disabled and of the disabled. The process was expedited after May 2007 by World Bank Mission, which recommended among others restructuring the same in line with PKSf (Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation) and SDF (Social Development Foundation). The Bank promised financing a project after restructuring the same.

The National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) – a network of NGOs working for the Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble Adviser in charge of Ministry of Social welfare in July 2007. The memorandum suggested changes in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the JPUF. The NFOWD proposal was considered by a inter-ministerial committee and the Board of Directors of the Foundation. There was consensus among the stakeholders to (i) restructure the organization and management of the foundation; (ii) ensure autonomy; (iii) redefine the nature and level of governmental supervision and (iv) complete the process of restructuring as soon as possible.



Ministry of Social Welfare in November 2007 issued notification for restructuring the JPUF and revised Memorandum and Articles of Association was lodged with Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in December 2007. The salient features of Foundation and Restructured Foundations are:

SI	Foundation Nov1999-Nov 2007	Restructured Foundation
1.	Two tier organization: Patron's Committee Board of Directors	Three tier organization: Patron's Committee, General Body, Board of Governors
2.	Majority members of the Board of Directors were from Government	Majority members of the Board of Governors and General Body from amongst non-government stakeholders.
3.	-	The post of Chairman has been created.
4.	Government appointed the Managing Directors from amongst serving Civil Servants (Joint Secretary and above)	The Board of Governors shall appoint a Managing Director who will act as Chief Executive Officer and the incumbent must not be a serving civil servant.
5.	The Board of Directors in consultation with Ministry of Social Welfare recruited all staff of the foundation.	The Board of Governors shall recruit all staff after framing recruitment rules for the same.
6.	The administration expenses of the foundation shall not be more than 10% of its budget.	The administration expenses of the foundation shall not be more than 20% of its budget. This may be increased or decreased with the approval of the General Body.
7.	The Memorandum and Articles of Association can be amended with the approval of the Government.	The Memorandum and Articles of Association can be amended with the approval of three-Fourth members of the General Body.

### 6.3. Major Activities of the Foundation in recent time

#### 6.3.1. Disbursement of grants in aid and micro-credit for the welfare of the Persons with Disabilities

The Foundation has undertaken comprehensive steps to ensure the rights and dignity of the Persons with Disabilities. The Foundation provides grants in aid and micro-credit among Persons with Disabilities through field level voluntary organisations. The grants and micro-credits are distributed for income-generation, health care, education, rehabilitation and for purchasing assistive devices. For this end-in-view the Government has provided a handsome amount of money to the Foundation. The Foundation received Taka 20 crore from the Government during 1999-2000 to 2005-2006 financial years. The Government allocated an additional amount of Taka 3 crore in the year 2006-2007. The Foundation distributed Taka 4 crore 91 lac 33 thousand as grant and Taka 1 crore 83 lac 75 thousand as micro-credit among voluntary organisations for the well-being of the Persons with Disabilities during 2002-2003 to 2005-2006 financial years. There is a provision in the Constitution of the Foundation to provide grants and micro-credit from the bank interest.



Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, Hon'ble Social Welfare Advisor is distributing Grants in Aid of the National Foundation for Development of Disabled Persons



With the allotted money the organizations have taken up different activities for the welfare of the Persons with Disabilities and it is expected that about 76,746 Persons with Disabilities has been directly benefited from these programmes. Recently 50 wheel chairs have been distributed to the Persons with Disabilities by the Foundation.

## **6.4. Programmes undertaken by the JPUF**

### **6.4.1. National Special Education Centre**

On 29/01/2001 the Ministry of Social Welfare by issuing a notification has handed over the National Special Education Centre of the Department of Social Services situated at Mirpur, Dhaka with its structure, manpower and assets and liabilities to the National Foundation for the Development of the Disable Persons. There are 75 officials in this institution under revenue budget. This institution has a faculty of Bachelor in Special Education (BSEd). There are separate schools for hearing impaired and mentally handicapped boys and girls, a Teacher Training College, a library and a resource centre. It may be mentioned that there are separate facilities to provide residential accommodation to 70 hearing impaired and mentally disabled students.



Student of National Special Education Centre, Mirpur, Dhaka

## Up to date Statement of Financial assistance of National Special Education Centre

Financial Year	Financial Year	Allocation (in Taka)	Beneficiaries	
			Teacher/Employee	Student
2001-02	2001-02	71,00,000	75 Persons	70
2002-03	2002-03	75,00,000	75 Persons	70
2003-04	2003-04	77,98,000	75 Persons	70
2004-05	2004-05	82,00,000	75 Persons	70
2005-06	2005-06	90,90,000	75 Persons	70

### 6.4.2. SWID-Bangladesh

In the financial year 2003-04, those existing 60% salary and other allowances had been increased to 80%. The Government has provided grants money to the “Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled-Bangladesh”-SWID-Bangladesh under which 44 non-Government Organizations are working in the Intellectual Disability Education Institutions in different districts of the country. About 442 Teachers/Officer/ Staffs are getting remuneration from this fund through the Foundation.

### *Statement of financial assistance given to SWID-Bangladesh*

Financial Year	Allocation (in Taka)	Beneficiaries	
		Teacher/Employee	Student
2001-02	71,00,000	75 Persons	70
2002-03	75,00,000	75 Persons	70
2003-04	77,98,000	75 Persons	70
2004-05	82,00,000	75 Persons	70
2005-06	90,90,000	75 Persons	70



### 6.4.3. Bangladesh Foundation of Disabled Persons

The non-Government Organization “Bangladesh Foundation of Disabled Persons” has been provided 60% salary and other allowances as Government grant money to 56 Teachers/Officers/Staffs of 7 Organizations working in Dhaka and Manikgonj districts.

#### Statement of financial assistance given to Bangladesh Foundation of Disabled Persons

Financial Year	Allocation (in Taka)	Beneficiaries	
		Teacher/Employee	Student
2001-02	18,00,000	56 Persons	700
2002-03	18,00,000	56 Persons	700
2003-04	18,00,000	56 Persons	700
2004-05	18,00,000	56 Persons	700
2005-06	18,00,000	56 Persons	700

### 6.4.4. Other special programmes

According to the decisions taken by the Government in order to implement specific programmes for disable persons a circular was issued from the Office of the Prime Minister vide memo no. 43.39.30.00.00.01. 2002-81(102) dated 07/03/2002. According to this instruction the following long-term and short-term activities are being implemented for the Persons with Disabilities.

## **Short-Term Activities**

### **Set-up separate Ticket Counter for Persons with Disabilities to make their journey easier in all transports**

In order to execute the decision, the copy of the notification has been sent to the Ministry of Communication, Road and Railway Division, Civil Aviation and Tourism and Shipping Ministry and subsequently request has been made to implement the decision and to keep the Ministry of Social Welfare informed. Sign boards have been hanged at the stations of Dhaka Airport, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Sylhet of Eastern Railway marking that "Tickets for the disable persons are available here". For purchasing tickets by the Persons with Disabilities, similar special counters have been established at the Stations of Khulna, Jessore, Kushtia, Rajbari at Ishwardi, Santahar, Natore, Parbatipur, Bogra, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur and Dinajpur of Western Railway.

BIWTA has opened separate ticket counters/Booths at major River Ports, Terminals under it control. BIWTA has also taken steps to provide tickets on priority basis for the Persons with Disabilities.

The Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry has opened separate counter at its Motijheel Office. Besides this a special service counter has been opened for the disable persons at Zia International Airport.

### **(1) Reservation of seats for the Persons with Disabilities at Bus, Train and Launch-Steamers**

Correspondences are going on with the related authorities to keep the seats reserved for the Persons with Disabilities in train and launch/ steamer. To this end, request has been made to Railway Division and Shipping Ministry to take necessary steps and to inform the Ministry of Social Welfare. By this time, arrangements have been made to keep 2 seats reserve at Sulab/Shobhan Classes in every Inter-City Train of Eastern



Zone of Railway. Against the reserve seats tickets will be available 3 hours before the departure of trains. Similar arrangements have been introduced in all Inter-City Trains of Western Railway Zone. Separate seats have been arranged for the Persons with Disabilities at BRTC Kamlapur Bus Station.

Steps have been taken to keep 5 seats reserve for the Persons with Disabilities in each Passenger Launch of BIWTA.

As there is no provision for reservation in third class in the water way, necessary help is being provided by the duty officials during the time of traveling by the Persons with Disabilities.

### **(3) Maintain strictly 10% quota for Persons with Disabilities in Government services (For class III & IV employees)**

The Ministry of Establishment has issued notification to fill up 10% quota in the Government job by the orphans and Persons with Disabilities and Ministry of Social Welfare is monitoring the issue.

### **(4) Open a complain box in the Department of Social Services for Persons with Disabilities to redress all kinds of harassment**

The Department of Social Services has implemented the decision and opened a complain box with a view to stop harassment of the Persons with Disabilities at the time of attending Government Offices. The DSS is monitoring the implementation of the decisions.

### **(5) To build ramp in public buildings for Persons with Disabilities**

The Foundation has requested the Ministry of Housing & Public Works to build ramp in all Government offices for easy access of the Persons with Disabilities. It may be mentioned here that one lift has been earmarked to be used by the Persons with Disabilities in the building number 6 of the Bangladesh Secretariat. Provision has been made in the Building Code to construct ramp in all Government buildings.

## **(6) Withdrawal of all embargoes in the employment of Persons with Disabilities in class I & class II posts of Government service**

The Ministry of Establishment has issued a circular to all concerned appointing authorities to execute this decision. It is worth mentioning that the issue of keeping provision of 1% quota for the Persons with Disabilities in class I Government job is under process in the Ministry of Establishment.

## **Long-Term Programmes**

### **(1) Arrangement of Micro-credit programme for Persons with Disabilities**

The programme of providing micro-credit to the Persons with Disabilities by all Nationalized Bank is under implementation. A draft guideline has been prepared by the National Foundation for the Development of the Disable Persons to provide micro-credit to the Persons with Disabilities. The DSS has already started a special micro-credit programme for the Persons with Disabilities where an amount 10 to 15 thousand taka is being disbursed to each selected PWD under Acid Burnt and Physically Handicapped Rehabilitation Programme.

### **(2) Arrangement to sale the products of the "Moitree Shilpa" in Government offices without tender**

The Department of Social Services has taken necessary steps in this regard and requested all ministries to purchase necessary plastic goods and mineral water of Moitree Shilpa without tender.

### **(3) To increase the Grants-in-aid by 20% from the Government for the National Foundation for the Development of the Disabled**

The Government has already increased the seed money of the Foundation to 23 crores from 20 crores during the financial year 2006-2007.



#### 6.4.5. Other Programmes taken by the Foundation

The Foundation has prepared 3 projects, which have been sent to the Ministry of Social Welfare to include in the next budget. The projects are as under:

- a. Providing Identity Cards to the Persons with Disabilities
- b. Arrangement of Assistive Devices for the Persons with Disabilities
- c. Establishment of a Disabled Complex for the Persons with Disabilities

Necessary steps have been undertaken for the amendment of the "Bangladesh Disability Welfare Act" 2001 with a view to make it more acceptable.

Preparation of National Work Plan had been finalised for the welfare and development for Persons with Disabilities according to the provision of Bangladesh Disability Welfare Act.

## Chapter VII

### Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahiyen Trust (Bangladesh)

#### 7.1. A Short History

The Children are the future of the nation. To-day's children are the potential citizens of future, so everyone has a moral obligation to take care of the children. With a view to socio-economic development, poverty reduction and employment for some orphans, the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen Trust was established in 1984. His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen of United Arab Emirate visited Bangladesh in 1984 and showed his keen interest for the welfare of the distressed orphans. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen Trust was established in his honour. Accordingly a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between External Resource Division (Economic Relations Division) and representative of the Abu Dhabi Fund on 22 June 1984. In accordance with the agreement, the Government has established Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen Trust Shishu Paribar at Sction-11, Mirpur, Dhaka in 1987 on a piece of land of 2.70 acres. Another Shishu Paribar was established at Lalmonirhat on a piece of land of 5 acres. Moreover United Arab Emirate Moitree (Friendship) Complex was established in Banani, Dhaka on about 3.75 acres of land. The Complex possesses a Shopping Complex consisting of 59 shops and Housing Complex consisting of 18 flats. There is an organogram of 18 staff members to run the routine work and daily activities of the Trust.



Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahian High School



## Trustee Board

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen Trust is run by a Trustee Board. The Trustee Board is established vide Go no MoSW /INSSEC/Al Nahiyen Trust-03/99 dated- 27.11.2001 with the following as members:

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Secretary<br>Ministry of Social Welfare<br>Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.   | Chairman         |
| 2. Joint Secretary (Middle East)<br>Economic Relations Division<br>Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. | Member           |
| 3. Joint Secretary<br>Ministry of Public Works and Housing<br>Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.                           | Member           |
| 4. Prof (Dr) M R Khan<br>National Professor and Child Specialist, Dhaka.   | Member           |
| 5. Director General<br>Department of Social Services, Dhaka.   | Member           |
| 6. Executive Director<br>Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen Trust, Dhaka.  | Member Secretary |

## 7.2. Aims and Objectives of the Trust

- Management of the Shishu Paribars at Mirpur, Dhaka and at Lalmonirhat with financial assistance of the Trust.
- Maintenance of the assets of the trust and utilization of wealth for income generation.
- Take-care of the orphans in homely environment with love and affection and provide education and proper training to the children to rehabilitate them as efficient citizens.

- Provide vocational training, games and sports and recreation for their overall development.
- Provide free medicare and run free clinic for the destitute children.

3 years Budget of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan Trust (Bangladesh), Al-Nahyan Shishu Paribar, Mirpur Section-2, Dhaka & Al-Nahyan Shishu Paribar, Lalmonirhat is given below:

Sl. No	Name of Institution	Budget for 2004-2005	Budget for 2005-2006	Budget for 2006-2007
1.	Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan Trust (Bangladesh).	21,46,880.00	25,89,400.00	26,64,000.00
2.	Al-Nahyan Shishu Paribar, Mirpur Section-2, Dhaka.	50,60,163.00	56,93,000.00	69,72,000.00
3.	Al-Nahyan Shishu Paribar, Lalmonirhat.	44,17,000.00	47,91,800.00	55,30,000.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,16,24,24,043.00</b>	<b>1,30,74,200.00</b>	<b>1,51,47,000.00</b>

### 7.3. Short description of recent activities

1. Primary school of the Sarkari Shishu Paribar, Mirpur, Dhaka has been upgraded as a High School.
2. The construction of surrounding wall of Lalmonirhat Sarkari Shishu Paribar has completed with verivate wire.
3. The children of Shishu Paribar are being educated properly. 4 students have got talent pool scholarships from Lalmonirhat Shishu Paribar in 2004.



4. Besides education and vocational training arrangements for games and sports have been made.
5. The Trust has procured 1 computer, 1 Fax machine, 2 Air conditioner to expedite its activities.
6. Al-Nahiyen Trust High School of Mirpur has got permission to sit for SSC examination.
7. The Trust has been able to collect all arrear bills of housing and shopping complex and paid all electricity and WASA bills.
8. The Trust has given lease the vacant space of housing and shopping complex to R.A. Media and is earning 1,35,000 Taka per month.
9. The Trust has increased 5% rent of the housing and shopping complex recently.

### **Future plan of Action**

The Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen Trust has undertaken some plan of action which are:

- To improve two Al Nahiyen High Schools as model High schools.
- To enlist the Al Nahiyen High School, Mirpur, Dhaka in the list of schools which get monthly payments for the teachers from the Government.
- To upgrade the Al Nahiyen Primary School of Lalmonirhat as a High school.
- To improve the vocational training facilities of the residents of Al Nahiyen Shishu Paribar.
- To improve the educational facilities of the residents of two schools.
- To build up housing and shopping complex at the vacant places of Mirpur and Lalmonirhat to increase the income of the Trust.

Due to constant supervision and guidance Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen Trust has become a successful nation building institution. The staff members of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahiyen Trust have rendered utmost services to make the Trust a successful organization.

## Chapter VIII

### Conclusions

The Ministry of Social Welfare is executing multidimensional programmes since long ago, which are actually in line with the provisions of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of the Government of Bangladesh. Each programme of this Ministry relates intensively with the poverty reduction and human resources development activities. The target group people of these programmes are the most disadvantaged, orphan, disabled persons of all kinds and poorest of the poor people of the country which are among the 33% of our population living below the poverty line. The programmes provide necessities of life like, education, employment, income generating resources, health care, and population control, which improve the socio-economic status of the hard-core population of the country.

As far as the measurable targets of the programmes are concerned, success have been achieved in the social integration, human resource development, social security, safety net programmes and welfare and service delivery and in addressing social disintegration programmes. It has also achieved moderate success in the development of human resources and reducing poverty. In respect of improving family relationship, socio-economic status, providing security and sense of unity, the achievement of the programme of the Ministry of Social Welfare has been modest. The outstanding achievement of the programmes has been found in the reduction of income inequality in the programme area when compared to the rest of the rural Bangladesh. The overall impact of the programme is found in a positive trend, which helps in building up the capacity of the poor, old, orphan, Persons with Disabilities and other disadvantaged persons in general.

Still much work is needed for increasing the literacy rate, health care, skill development, group formation, leadership development, income generation and provision of micro-credit as there is one third of its population living below the poverty line. The fundamental issue in respect of poverty alleviation is the lack of education, life skill,



proactive and right base training and employment of the future generation, which are perhaps, the most important service that contributes to the long-term benefit of the poor and disadvantaged people.

The aspects of poverty alleviation and human resource development are to be considered seriously by the society as a whole including the main actor, the Government. The management in the Government sector should be more strategic in getting the best results out of the investments. This can be done by making strategic planning i.e. by setting goals and objectives and developing strategies to achieve those goals within the stipulated time and by measuring the results. And finally the results must be evaluated, so that any constraints detected can be rectified during the execution of the next programmes. Success would be achieved if economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the performance can be ensured by the concerned authorities dealing with poverty alleviation and human resource development programmes.

## References:

1. Banglapedia (2003), National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh Vol-6 & 8, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka.
2. BBS, Dhaka (2001), Preliminary Report of Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2000.
3. Charles Zastraw (1982), Introduction to Social Welfare Institutions, Social Problems, Services and Current Issues.
4. Chowdhury, Elora Halim (2004) The Limits of Transnational Organizing: The Success and Failure of the Campaign against Acid Violence in Bangladesh. ([http://www.adhunik.org/issues/Acid\\_Violence\\_EHC.html](http://www.adhunik.org/issues/Acid_Violence_EHC.html))
5. Elizabeth Wickenden (1965), Social Welfare in a Changing World (Washington D.C., Department of Health, Education and Welfare), p.VII.
6. Encyclopaedia of Social Work, New York (1965), The National Association of social workers of U.S.A.
7. Gertrude Wilson and Gladys Ryland, (1949) 'Social Group Work Practice', Boston :- Houghton Mifflin, p.15.
8. Hannan, M.A. (1995), Land Reform in Bangladesh, an unpublished M. Sc thesis, Faculty of Urban and Regional Studies, University of Reading, UK
9. Hobsbawm, E.J. (1968), Poverty, International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, New York
10. Hye, H.A. (1996), Below the Line: Rural Poverty in Bangladesh, University Press Limited, Dhaka Bangladesh
11. Implementation Manual (1997) of Rural Social Services Programme
12. Implementation Manual (2002) of the Rehabilitation Programme of Acid Burnt Women and the Physically Handicapped
13. Implementation Manual of National Population Programme through Rural Mothers Centre (RMC)



14. Khan A.R. (1979), "The Comilla Model and the Integrated Rural Development Programme in Bangladesh: An Experiment in Cooperative Capitalism", World Development, Vol.7, pp.397-422
15. Leach Mark (1993): Building Capacity through Action Learning – A paper written for ALED (Action Learning: Education for Development) Institute for Development Research (IDR).
16. Mahmud, W. University of Dhaka. Strategy for pro-poor Growth in Bangladesh. (<http://www.dhakaseminar.com/Wahiduddin%20mahmud.htm>)
17. Official documents of Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council
18. Official documents of National Foundation for the Disabled
19. Official documents of Seikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahian Trust
20. Official documents of the Department of Social Services
21. Oppenheim & Harker (1996), "What is Poverty?" in Alcock, P. (1997), Understanding Poverty (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), Macmillan
22. Orshansky, M. (1995), "Counting the Poor: Another Look at the Poverty Profile", Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 28, January 1965
23. Oyen, E., Miller, S.M. & Samad, S.A. (1996), Poverty: A Global Review, Scandinavian University Press, Oslo, Norway
24. Pathania, Jyoti M.. Bangladesh's Micro Credit: Millennium's recipe for poverty alleviation.
25. Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, December, 2004, Unlocking the Potential, National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction
26. Radha Krishnan. S. Dr, Encyclopedia of Government of India Social Work, India, the planning commission.
27. Rahman Md. Anisur (1994): People's Self-Development. Perspective on Participatory Action Research. A Journey through Experience – The University Press Ltd., Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- বাংসমুঃ-২৮১৩কম।