



EKOTA SAMAJ KALLAYAN SANGSTHA (ESKS)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Ekota Samaj Kallyan Sangstha (ESKS)

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ABSTRACT

The 2024 annual report of ESKS highlights its impactful initiatives across education, healthcare, women empowerment, livelihood development, and environmental conservation. In collaboration with national and international donors, ESKS implemented diverse programs, including cybercrime awareness, maternal and child health support, primary healthcare training, and sustainable livelihood projects. These efforts focused on empowering marginalized communities through capacity-building, awareness campaigns, and cooperative systems to enhance resilience and self-reliance. By addressing pressing socio-economic challenges and fostering inclusive development, ESKS reaffirmed its commitment to creating equitable opportunities and sustainable progress in Bangladesh.

PREFACE



MD BADSHA MIA
PRESIDENT

Message from the Head of ESKS

I am pleased to present the ESKS Annual Report for 2024, highlighting our unwavering commitment to sustainable community development and empowerment. This year, we expanded our initiatives to address critical challenges in health, education, livelihoods, and environmental resilience, fostering transformative change across marginalized communities.

Notable achievements include pioneering awareness campaigns, vocational training, maternal and child health programs, and innovative livelihood models that have strengthened resilience and self-reliance at the grassroots level. Enhanced field engagement and collaboration with our partners have amplified the impact of our efforts, ensuring that our interventions remain sustainable and community-driven.

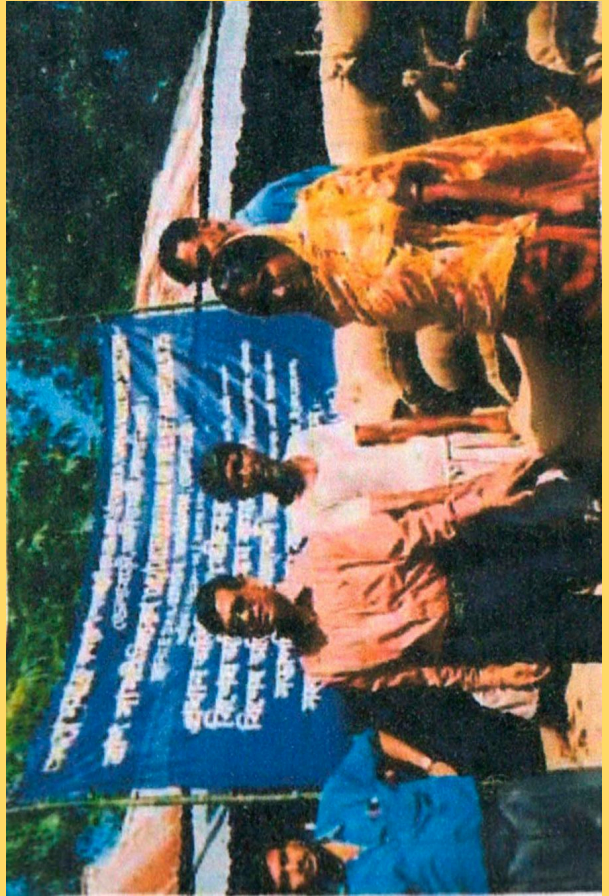
As we reflect on 2024, we are motivated by the progress made and remain dedicated to expanding our reach and impact in the years to come. With the continued support of our donors, partners, and beneficiaries, we look forward to building a brighter, more equitable future together.

Md. Badsha Mia
President
Ekota Samaj Kallyan Sangstha (ESKS)

Gallery of Legacy



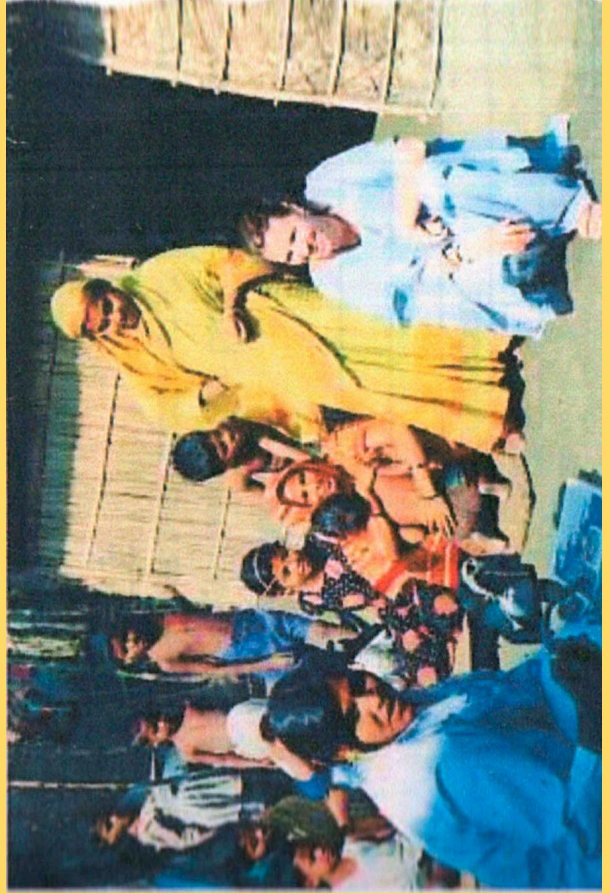












Introduction to the Organization

Name: Ekota Samaj Kallyan Sangstha (ESKS)

Village: Bhelabari, Post Office: Bhelabari

Upazilla: Aditmari, District: Lalmonirhat, Bangladesh

Legal Status

- Registered under the Department of Social Services, Government of Bangladesh (Registration No: Adit/Lal/78/97)
- Registered under the Directorate of Youth Development (Registration No: Lal-25/Adit/03)
- Registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Bangladesh (Registration No: 13306/98)

Brief of the Authority

Ekota Samaj Kallyan Sangstha (ESKS) was established in response to the persistent poverty and systemic inequalities faced by the people of Bangladesh. While national development strategies have often fallen short, grassroots organizations like ESKS have emerged as beacons of hope, driven by committed social activists. ESKS is a non-profit, non-political, voluntary organization dedicated to empowering women, disadvantaged groups, and underprivileged communities.

Bangladesh remains challenged by deep-rooted poverty, gender disparity, and natural disasters. Women disproportionately bear the burden of poverty, facing systemic discrimination and limited access to resources.

In this context, ESKS strives to create meaningful and sustainable change by promoting gender equity, human rights, and social justice.

Goal

To establish a gender-equity-based society, eliminate discrimination and violence against women, and ensure sustainable development for women and the underprivileged.

Mission Statement

To unite and empower women and disadvantaged groups, enabling their participation in all spheres of development. ESKS advocates for programs that address the needs of marginalized communities in the most effective and cost-efficient manner.

Objectives

- Develop strategies to address the challenges faced by disadvantaged groups.
- Design and implement projects benefiting underprivileged communities.
- Foster mutual support and cooperation among target groups.
- Provide grassroots-level training and skill development programs.
- Promote strong and participatory leadership.
- Encourage self-reliance through the development and use of local resources.
- Stimulate human potential toward self-actualization.
- Uphold human rights for all, regardless of gender, caste, or creed.
- Advocate for good governance through lobbying and awareness campaigns.

Geographic Focus Areas

In 2024, Ekota Samaj Kallayan Sangstha (ESKS) implemented key interventions across **Lalmonirhat**, Bangladesh. This region, often vulnerable to socio-economic and climate-induced challenges, has become a focal point for pioneering community development efforts.

Key Attributes of Lalmonirhat:

- **Environmental Challenges:** Frequent flooding, river erosion, and climate vulnerabilities.
- **Economic Constraints:** High dependency on subsistence agriculture and limited livelihood diversification.
- **Social Gaps:** Inadequate access to education, healthcare, and essential services, particularly in marginalized groups.

Themes of Intervention

1. Child Rights and Education

ESKS is committed to nurturing the potential of children by ensuring access to quality education and protection of their fundamental rights. The organization emphasizes building a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for children to thrive.



- **Non-Formal Education:** ESKS provides alternative education to children who are excluded from formal schooling. Through creative teaching methods and community-based learning centers, the program bridges educational gaps and reintegrates children into mainstream schools, ensuring no child is left behind.
- **Cybercrime Education Through ICT:** Recognizing the digital age's opportunities and risks, ESKS conducts workshops and training sessions to educate children and young adults about safe online practices. By empowering them with knowledge about digital threats such as cyberbullying, online exploitation, and identity theft, the program aims to create a safer virtual environment.
- **Child Protection:** ESKS advocates for children's rights by conducting campaigns and implementing community-based initiatives to prevent exploitation, abuse, and neglect. The organization collaborates with local authorities, families, and schools to establish protective mechanisms and ensure a secure upbringing for every child.

2. Women Empowerment and Maternal Health

ESKS believes that empowering women and supporting maternal health are vital to building resilient communities. Through targeted interventions, the organization promotes equity, independence, and well-being for women.

- **Women Empowerment Programs:**

By offering vocational training, cooperative initiatives, and leadership development workshops, ESKS enables women to enhance their skills and achieve financial independence. Programs focus on tailoring, handicrafts, small-business management, and digital literacy, encouraging women to actively participate in decision-making processes.

- **Support for Lactating Mothers and Pregnant Women:**

ESKS provides expecting and new mothers with vital healthcare, nutrition education, and emotional support. The initiative includes pre- and post-natal care, access to midwives, and awareness sessions on maternal health and child care.

- **Nutritious Diet Programs:**

With a focus on reducing malnutrition, ESKS promotes healthy eating habits and provides nutritional supplements to women and children. The program includes cooking demonstrations, diet planning, and distribution of fortified food to ensure maternal and child health.



3. Livelihood Development and Sustainable Agriculture

To promote economic independence and resilience, ESKS focuses on skill development and environmentally sustainable practices, particularly in rural communities.

- **Chicken and Cattle Rearing Projects:**

ESKS supports families with training and resources for livestock rearing, providing an additional income source. The initiative includes veterinary support, feed supply, and market linkage to ensure sustainability.

- **Nursery and Forestation Projects:**

Encouraging environmental conservation, ESKS helps communities develop nurseries and plant trees to improve livelihoods while addressing environmental degradation.



These projects create employment opportunities and promote biodiversity.

- **Cooperative Livelihood Development:**
Through cooperative systems, ESKS facilitates resource sharing and joint economic ventures among community members. This approach strengthens economic networks and fosters collective growth.

4. Health and Well-being

ESKS ensures access to essential healthcare services and promotes holistic community well-being through education and targeted interventions.

- **Primary Healthcare Programs:**
ESKS brings healthcare services to underserved areas using mobile clinics and community health workers. The initiative addresses common illnesses, provides immunizations, and promotes preventive healthcare practices.
- **COVID-19 Awareness and Response:**
In response to the pandemic, ESKS launched campaigns to educate communities about preventive measures such as hand hygiene, mask-wearing, and vaccination. The organization also distributed hygiene kits and food supplies to vulnerable families.



5. Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning

ESKS is dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and skills of adults, empowering them to lead informed and improved lives.



- **Adult Literacy Projects:**
Innovative literacy programs by ESKS focus on teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic to adults, especially women, enabling them to participate more actively in family and community affairs.
- **Community Awareness Campaigns:**
The organization conducts workshops and campaigns on critical issues like hygiene, disaster preparedness, gender equality, and financial literacy. These sessions aim to create a more informed and resilient population.

6. Environmental Conservation and Resilience

ESKS emphasizes sustainable development and resilience-building through climate adaptation and environmental stewardship programs.

- **Forestation Initiatives:**
ESKS plants trees to combat deforestation, restore ecosystems, and improve soil fertility. Community involvement ensures these initiatives have lasting impacts on both the environment and livelihoods.
- **Disaster Preparedness Programs:**
As climate change increases the frequency of natural disasters, ESKS trains communities to prepare for and respond to events like floods and droughts. Programs include early warning systems, evacuation drills, and the construction of climate-resilient shelters.



2024 Key Achievements

Impact Metrics

- **Child Protection:**
 - Over 6,000 children benefited from education, nutrition, and safety initiatives.
 - Reduced child marriage rates by 30% in project areas.
- **Disaster Preparedness:**
 - Equipped 20,000 individuals with training on disaster risk reduction (DRR).
 - Built 15 multi-purpose flood-resistant shelters serving 25,000 residents.
- **Livelihood Support:**
 - Enhanced agricultural productivity by 35% through climate-smart practices for 5,000 farmers.
 - Empowered 2,500 women with vocational training and micro-enterprise support.
- **Healthcare Initiatives:**
 - Reached 15,000 individuals with mobile health services.
 - Distributed 12,000 sanitation kits, improving hygiene practices.

Key Highlights

Project Highlight: Health Awareness and Aid Distribution in Post Covid 19

Donor: Clark D Smith , USA

Location: Marginalized Communities Across Lalmonirhat



Overview

In response to the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project, generously funded by Clark D Smith, was launched to address the urgent needs of Bangladesh's most vulnerable populations. This initiative targeted marginalized communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic, providing critical support to protect their health and well-being.

Key Objectives

1. **Raise Awareness:** Educate communities about COVID-19 preventive measures, symptoms, and treatment options through targeted awareness campaigns.

2. **Aid Distribution:** Distribute essential protective supplies, including face masks, hand sanitizers, disinfectants, and personal hygiene kits.
3. **Marginalized Focus:** Prioritize aid for the most at-risk groups, including daily wage laborers, elderly individuals, and underserved families in rural and urban slums.

Implementation Strategies

1. **Community Engagement:** Partner with local leaders, health workers, and volunteers to reach the most disadvantaged communities effectively. Information sessions were conducted in small, socially distanced groups to ensure the safety of participants while disseminating vital knowledge about the virus and its prevention.
2. **Supply Distribution:** Over 10000 hygiene kits, including masks, sanitizers, and soaps, were distributed across [Insert Number] districts. The project leveraged both public and private transport networks to ensure timely delivery to remote areas.
3. **Multichannel Awareness Campaigns:** Utilizing radio broadcasts, posters, and mobile loudspeakers, the project disseminated WHO and government-approved COVID-19 guidelines, ensuring the message reached non-literate populations as well.

Impact

- **Reach:** The project directly benefited individuals across the marginalized communities in Bangladesh.
- **Behavioral Change:** Increased adoption of COVID-19 preventive measures, such as mask-wearing and regular handwashing, was observed in project areas.
- **Community Safety:** By equipping vulnerable groups with the tools and knowledge to combat the pandemic, the project contributed significantly to reducing infection rates within these high-risk communities.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Despite its success, the project faced several challenges, including:

- **Supply Chain Disruptions:** Initial delays in procuring and distributing protective supplies due to lockdown restrictions.
- **Misinformation:** Countering widespread myths about COVID-19 required sustained and tailored communication efforts.
- **Accessibility Issues:** Reaching remote areas demanded innovative approaches, such as engaging local volunteers and using bicycles for supply delivery.

The project highlighted the importance of community engagement, rapid response mechanisms, and localized solutions in addressing global health crises.

Acknowledgments

The ESKS team extends heartfelt gratitude to Clark D Smith, USA, for their generous support and unwavering commitment to helping the people of Bangladesh during one of the most challenging

periods in recent history. This project would not have been possible without the dedication of countless volunteers, healthcare workers, and community leaders who worked tirelessly to make a difference.

Project Highlight: “Combating Cybercrime through ICT”

Donor: ICT Department, Ministry of ICT, Bangladesh

Location: Various Marginalized Communities Across Bangladesh

Overview

The “Combating Cybercrime through ICT” project, financed by the ICT Department under the Ministry of ICT, Bangladesh, was a pioneering initiative aimed at equipping unemployed and marginalized youth with essential ICT skills. The project not only enhanced their employability but also empowered them to combat cybercrime and safeguard themselves and their communities against digital threats.

Key Objectives

1. **Digital Literacy and Skill Development:** Train unemployed and marginalized youth in computer literacy and ICT to enhance their professional competencies.
2. **Cybercrime Awareness:** Educate participants on cybercrime, its implications, and best practices for safe online behavior.
3. **Employment Opportunities:** Enable trained youth to secure jobs in government and non-government organizations, contributing to economic empowerment.



Implementation Strategies

1. **Targeted Training Programs:**
 - **Curriculum Development:** Tailored ICT training modules were developed, covering topics such as basic computer operations, cybersecurity, and online safety practices.
 - **Practical Skill-Building:** Hands-on training sessions emphasized practical applications of ICT skills, including basic programming, data entry, and digital communication tools.
 - **Cybersecurity Focus:** Workshops addressed cybercrime awareness, teaching participants to recognize phishing attempts, safeguard personal data, and understand cyber laws.
2. **Inclusive Recruitment:**
 - Focused on engaging youth from marginalized backgrounds, with special attention to unemployed graduates, women, and economically disadvantaged groups.
3. **Community Engagement:**
 - Partnered with local organizations to identify eligible participants and maximize outreach.
 - Conducted awareness campaigns to promote the importance of cybersecurity and the potential of ICT in improving livelihoods.



Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** Over 2000 youth received ICT and cybersecurity training, equipping them with marketable skills.
- **Employment Outcomes:** A significant proportion of trainees secured employment in government offices, private companies, and NGOs. Many others ventured into freelance opportunities in the digital economy.
- **Cybercrime Awareness:** Raised awareness among young people about the dangers of cybercrime, fostering a culture of responsible internet use.
- **Skill Development:** Participants reported increased confidence in using digital tools and navigating the online space securely.

Success Stories

- **Rina's Transformation:** A 23-year-old from Aditmari, Lalmonirhat,, Rina enrolled in the program with little knowledge of computers. After completing the training, she secured a data entry position in a local NGO, enabling her to support her family financially.
- **Rahim's Contribution:** Rahim, an unemployed graduate, became a cybersecurity advocate in his community after the training, conducting awareness sessions to educate others about safe online practices.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Digital Divide:** Limited access to computers and internet connectivity in rural areas posed initial challenges. Mobile training units and subsidized internet access were introduced to address these issues.
- **Sustainability:** Ensuring continued engagement of participants required follow-up sessions and alumni support groups.
- **Misinformation:** Combating misconceptions about ICT and cybercrime demanded consistent and clear messaging.

This project showcased the transformative power of ICT in building skills, raising awareness, and improving the livelihoods of marginalized communities, while also contributing to national efforts to combat cybercrime.

Acknowledgments

The ESKS team is deeply grateful to the ICT Department under the Ministry of ICT, Bangladesh, for their financial support and vision in making this project possible. We also thank the dedicated trainers, community partners, and participants whose hard work and enthusiasm turned this initiative into a resounding success.

Project Highlight: “Care for Lactating Mothers”

Donor: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

The “Care for Lactating Mothers” project, funded by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, aimed to improve the health and well-being of pregnant and lactating mothers, along with their newborns. This initiative focused on raising awareness, promoting health and nutrition, and providing essential training to ensure the holistic development of children and the empowerment of their families.



Key Objectives

1. **Maternal Health Awareness:** Educate pregnant and lactating mothers on critical health issues, nutrition, and self-care practices.

2. **Newborn Care:** Provide guidance on infant care, focusing on health hazards, nutrition, and early development.
3. **Educational Awareness:** Advocate for the importance of early education and proper upbringing for long-term child development.



Implementation Strategies

1. **Community Training Programs:**
 - **Maternal Health Workshops:** Conducted sessions on prenatal and postnatal care, focusing on dietary requirements, mental well-being, and safe practices for mothers.
 - **Newborn Care Seminars:** Focused on infant nutrition, immunization schedules, hygiene practices, and managing common health issues in newborns.
 - **Educational Awareness Meetings:** Emphasized the importance of early education, encouraging families to prepare for their children's educational journey from an early age.
2. **Family-Centric Awareness Campaigns:**

- Community meetings involved both mothers and family members to ensure shared responsibility and support for maternal and child care.
 - Distributed easy-to-understand informational materials, such as posters and leaflets, to reinforce key messages.
3. **Support Groups and Networking:**
- Established support groups for mothers to share experiences and receive ongoing guidance from health professionals.
 - Built partnerships with local healthcare providers to ensure mothers and children had access to necessary medical services.

Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** Over 1000 pregnant and lactating mothers participated in the project, positively impacting their health and their children's well-being.
- **Health Improvements:** Participants reported better health outcomes for both mothers and infants, with increased awareness of nutrition and hygiene practices.
- **Behavioral Change:** Families demonstrated greater involvement in the care and upbringing of newborns, fostering an environment of shared responsibility.
- **Educational Advocacy:** Many families expressed increased interest in securing early education opportunities for their children.



Success Stories

- **Shamima's Journey:** A young mother, Shamima benefited from the project's training sessions, learning how to prepare nutritious meals for herself and her baby. She also became an advocate for maternal health in her community.

- **A Family Transformed:** The project's family-focused approach helped one household recognize the importance of early childhood education, inspiring them to enroll their toddler in a local pre-school program.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Cultural Barriers:** Traditional beliefs and practices sometimes conflicted with project recommendations, requiring culturally sensitive communication strategies.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited availability of healthcare resources in remote areas necessitated innovative solutions, such as mobile health clinics.
- **Sustainability:** Ensuring continued family engagement required follow-up programs and community-based support systems.

This project successfully highlighted the critical role of maternal health and early childhood care in building a healthier and more educated society. By addressing the needs of both mothers and children, the initiative created a ripple effect, fostering long-term community well-being.

Acknowledgments

The ESKS team expresses its gratitude to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for their financial support and visionary leadership. We also thank the mothers, families, health professionals, and community leaders who contributed their time and effort to the success of this initiative.

Project Highlight: “Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Program”

Donor: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview
The Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) program was designed to uplift marginalized and vulnerable women through skill development, economic empowerment, and financial literacy. Funded by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, this initiative focused on equipping women with the tools and knowledge to secure sustainable livelihoods while fostering a culture of savings and cooperative development.



Key Objectives

- 1. **Income-Generating Skills:** Provide vocational and entrepreneurial training to empower women with marketable skills.

2. **Rights Awareness:** Educate women about their labor rights, workplace safety, and gender equity.
3. **Savings and Financial Inclusion:** Encourage savings habits, connect participants with banking services, and facilitate cooperative society development for collective economic progress.



Implementation Strategies

1. **Skill Development Training:**
 - Organized workshops on income-generating activities such as handicrafts, tailoring, poultry farming, and small-scale business management.
 - Provided hands-on training tailored to the local economy and market demands, enabling participants to secure sustainable income sources.
2. **Awareness Programs:**
 - Conducted sessions on women's labor rights, workplace safety, and legal protections to build confidence and self-advocacy.
 - Organized group discussions to enhance awareness of gender equity, shared responsibility, and community development.
3. **Savings and Cooperative Formation:**
 - Facilitated training on the importance of savings, financial planning, and resource management.
 - Linked participants with local banks to open savings accounts, ensuring their access to financial services.

- Supported the formation of cooperative societies for collective economic ventures, promoting resource sharing and joint decision-making.



Impact

- **Empowered Beneficiaries:** Over 250 women gained skills in income-generating activities, significantly improving their household incomes.
- **Financial Independence:** A large percentage of participants opened savings accounts and began practicing financial literacy, laying the groundwork for economic resilience.
- **Cooperative Societies:** Several cooperative societies were established, fostering collaboration and long-term community growth.
- **Rights Awareness:** Participants reported increased confidence in asserting their rights and navigating workplace challenges.

Success Stories

- **Salma's Transformation:** A participant, Salma learned tailoring through the program and began her small business. Today, she not only supports her family but also employs two other women in her community.
- **From Vulnerability to Leadership:** A group of women from Aditmari, Lalmonirhat formed a cooperative society after completing the program. The cooperative now runs a small poultry farm, creating sustainable income for its members.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Cultural Resistance:** Initial resistance to women engaging in income-generating activities required community engagement and awareness-building efforts.
- **Market Access:** Ensuring participants had access to markets for their products remains a critical area for further intervention.
- **Sustained Engagement:** Continued follow-up and mentorship are essential to maintain the momentum and support newly formed cooperatives.

This project demonstrated the transformative potential of targeted interventions in vulnerable communities. By equipping women with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to achieve financial independence, the VGD program fostered a culture of resilience and empowerment that will have lasting effects on families and communities.

Acknowledgments

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for their generous support and dedication to empowering vulnerable women. Special thanks to the participants, trainers, and local leaders whose contributions were instrumental in the success of this program.

Project Highlight: “Promoting Nutritious Food Intake and Addressing Food Adulteration Risks”

Donor: Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of Bangladesh

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

The “Promoting Nutritious Food Intake and Addressing Food Adulteration Risks” project, funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, aimed to improve community health by raising awareness about balanced nutrition and the dangers of food adulteration. Implemented by ESKS, this initiative addressed key dietary concerns, promoting safe and informed food practices through education, engagement, and advocacy.



Key Objectives

1. **Nutritional Awareness:** Educate communities on the importance of balanced diets and nutrient-rich foods for better health outcomes.
2. **Food Safety Education:** Raise awareness of the risks associated with food adulteration and promote the consumption of safe, unadulterated products.
3. **Community Empowerment:** Foster collective responsibility among individuals, vendors, and authorities to ensure food safety and nutritional well-being.



Implementation Strategies

1. **Awareness and Capacity-Building Initiatives:**
 - **Workshops and Seminars:** Hosted sessions with experts on nutrition, health risks of adulterated food, and dietary planning for diverse groups.
 - **Community Meetings:** Organized interactive discussions to address local food safety concerns and share practical tips for safer eating habits.
2. **Public Engagement Campaigns:**
 - **Rallies and Awareness Drives:** Mobilized communities through public events, delivering key messages about food safety and nutrition.
 - **Educational Materials:** Disseminated brochures, posters, and other materials highlighting the importance of nutritious and safe food.
3. **Stakeholder Collaboration:**

- Partnered with food vendors, local authorities, and community leaders to promote adherence to food safety standards.
- Conducted training for food handlers on hygienic practices and regulatory compliance.

Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** Community members benefited from awareness sessions, campaigns, and training programs.
- **Improved Practices:** Participants adopted healthier dietary habits and demonstrated greater vigilance regarding food quality.
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthened collaboration among stakeholders, fostering a shared commitment to food safety.
- **Sustainability:** The initiative empowered communities with knowledge and resources to sustain healthier eating practices.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Community Resistance:** Initial reluctance to change ingrained eating habits required patient and culturally sensitive approaches.
- **Resource Limitations:** Logistical constraints, especially in rural areas, necessitated adaptive measures such as local volunteers and mobile teams.
- **Long-term Engagement:** Sustaining momentum post-project required integrating awareness programs into existing community structures.

This project exemplifies ESKS's commitment to promoting public health through education and advocacy, contributing to the broader goal of a healthier and more informed society.

Acknowledgments

We extend our gratitude to the Ministry of Science and Technology for their unwavering support and vision. Our heartfelt thanks go to the community members, partners, and dedicated team members who made this initiative a success.

Project Highlight: “Women Empowerment through Community and Agricultural Development”

Donor: Women’s World Day of Prayer, Germany

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

The Women Empowerment Project, funded by the Women’s World Day of Prayer, Germany, focused on fostering self-reliance and community collaboration among women. This initiative provided training on sustainable vegetable cultivation, cooperative societies, and community development. Additionally, the project emphasized child care, household management, and women’s rights awareness, contributing to holistic empowerment and improved community well-being.



Key Objectives

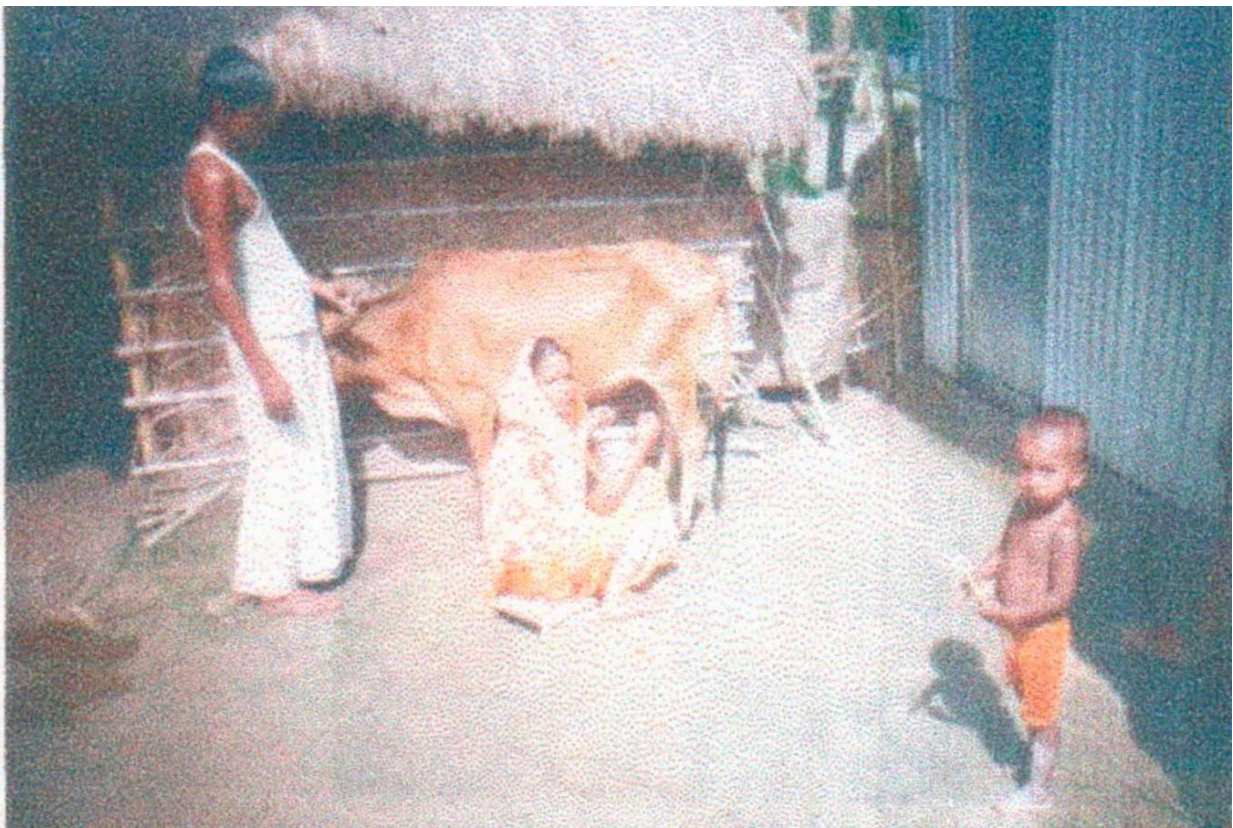
1. **Agricultural Training:** Equip women with the knowledge and skills to cultivate vegetables on household premises, promoting food security and self-reliance.
2. **Community and Cooperative Development:** Foster teamwork through the formation of cooperative societies and engagement in community service projects.
3. **Hygiene and Household Care:** Raise awareness about maintaining clean and healthy living environments.
4. **Child Care and Parenting Awareness:** Educate women on proper child care practices, nutrition, and the importance of education for children.
5. **Rights Advocacy:** Build awareness of women's rights and empower participants to advocate for gender equality and social justice.



Implementation Strategies

1. **Vegetable Cultivation Training:**
 - Delivered hands-on training on growing vegetables within household premises using sustainable methods.
 - Provided seeds, tools, and guidance to encourage participants to start their own vegetable gardens.
2. **Cooperative Societies and Community Services:**
 - Facilitated the formation of cooperative societies to enhance collaboration and resource sharing among women.

- Organized community service projects, including cleaning and beautifying shared spaces around homes and villages.
3. **Child Care and Parenting Education:**
- Conducted workshops on child nutrition, health, and hygiene, promoting holistic child development.
 - Emphasized the importance of early education and fostering supportive family environments.
4. **Women's Rights Awareness:**
- Organized awareness campaigns on legal rights, workplace safety, and social equity for women.
 - Held group discussions and interactive sessions to empower participants to assert their rights and responsibilities.



Impact

- **Increased Food Security:** Participants successfully established vegetable gardens, providing their families with fresh produce and reducing household expenses.
- **Community Collaboration:** Cooperative societies and community service initiatives fostered unity and mutual support among women.
- **Improved Living Standards:** Awareness campaigns on hygiene and clean surroundings contributed to healthier and safer living conditions.
- **Empowered Mothers:** Training on child care and parenting resulted in better nutrition and early education opportunities for children.

- **Women's Rights Advocacy:** Participants reported greater confidence in asserting their rights and seeking opportunities outside traditional roles.

Success Stories

- **A Model Garden in Action:** A participant transformed her backyard into a thriving vegetable garden, not only feeding her family but also selling surplus produce to the local market, creating a new income source.
- **Strength in Unity:** A group of women formed a cooperative society and collectively managed a community garden. The profits were reinvested into community development projects, benefiting all members.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Initial Hesitation:** Many participants initially lacked confidence in their abilities, necessitating continuous motivation and support.
- **Resource Availability:** Ensuring adequate tools and materials for vegetable gardening required careful planning and distribution.
- **Sustained Impact:** Continued monitoring and follow-up are essential to maintain the momentum of cooperative activities and community projects.

Acknowledgments

We express our sincere gratitude to the Women's World Day of Prayer, Germany, for their generous support and commitment to empowering women. Heartfelt thanks to the local leaders, trainers, and participants for their tireless efforts in making this project a success.

Project Highlight: “Ensuring Child Rights and Empowering Marginalized Children”

Donor: Bangladesh Child Rights Forum (BCRF)

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

The “Ensuring Child Rights and Empowering Marginalized Children” project, funded by the Bangladesh Child Rights Forum (BCRF), aimed to address critical issues impacting vulnerable children, including child labor and child abuse. Implemented by ESKS, this initiative sought to empower marginalized and street children by advocating for their right to education and incorporating them into formal schooling systems. Through this project, ESKS worked to protect children’s rights and provide them with opportunities for a better future.



Key Objectives

1. **Eradication of Child Labor:** Advocate against child labor and facilitate access to education for affected children.
2. **Prevention of Child Abuse:** Raise awareness about child abuse and establish mechanisms for reporting and addressing such issues.
3. **Access to Education:** Empower marginalized and street children by integrating them into schools and fostering their right to education.
4. **Child Rights Advocacy:** Promote awareness of child rights among communities, families, and institutions to create a supportive environment for children.

Implementation Strategies

1. **Awareness and Advocacy Campaigns:**
 - Conducted public awareness sessions on the consequences of child labor and abuse, emphasizing the importance of education and protection.
 - Distributed educational materials such as leaflets, posters, and handbooks to promote child rights.
2. **Community and Institutional Engagement:**
 - Partnered with local schools to facilitate the enrollment of marginalized children.
 - Collaborated with community leaders and institutions to advocate for child-friendly policies and practices.
3. **Support Programs for Children:**
 - Established transitional learning centers to prepare street children for formal education.
 - Provided counseling and support services for children affected by abuse and exploitation.
4. **Capacity Building and Training:**
 - Trained community members, parents, and educators on recognizing and addressing child rights violations.
 - Conducted workshops on effective strategies to integrate marginalized children into schools.

Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** Children were enrolled in schools, transitioning from street life and child labor.
- **Behavioral Change:** Families and communities became more aware of the importance of child rights and education, leading to increased advocacy against child labor and abuse.
- **Improved Systems:** Strengthened collaboration between schools, local authorities, and community organizations to create sustainable support systems for marginalized children.

Success Stories

- **Reintegration into Education:** A group of children who had been working in hazardous conditions were successfully enrolled in schools, receiving educational support and a renewed sense of hope.
- **Community Transformation:** Families began to prioritize education over child labor due to consistent advocacy and support from the project.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Economic Pressures:** Many families relied on child labor for survival, making it challenging to persuade them to prioritize education. Economic support mechanisms were critical in addressing this issue.
- **Social Stigma:** The reintegration of marginalized children into formal education systems often faced resistance, requiring continuous community sensitization.
- **Sustainability:** Ensuring long-term educational engagement for street children required ongoing support and monitoring.

This project underscores ESKS's dedication to upholding child rights and fostering opportunities for marginalized children to thrive through education and protection.

Acknowledgments

We express our deepest gratitude to the Bangladesh Child Rights Forum (BCRF) for their unwavering support and guidance. Special thanks to the children, families, schools, and communities whose active participation made this project a success.

Project Highlight: “Primary Healthcare at the Community Level (PHC)”

Donor: Semavi, The Netherlands

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

The Primary Healthcare at the Community Level (PHC) project, generously funded by Semavi, The Netherlands, aimed to enhance the health and well-being of marginalized communities by addressing their primary healthcare needs. This initiative emphasized training on health-related issues for mothers, children, and vulnerable groups, ensuring access to basic healthcare services and promoting hygiene and disease prevention.



Key Objectives

1. **Health Awareness and Training:** Educate community members, especially mothers and children, on primary healthcare practices and disease prevention.
2. **Early Detection and Referrals:** Identify and refer individuals with specific health needs to government and non-government healthcare facilities for timely treatment.

3. **Personal and Community Hygiene:** Promote good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of common illnesses.
4. **Community Engagement:** Conduct community meetings to build awareness and foster a collective approach to health and well-being.

Implementation Strategies

1. **Training on Primary Healthcare:**
 - Organized workshops on recognizing and managing common illnesses, including respiratory infections, diarrhea, and other preventable diseases.
 - Focused on maternal and child health, including prenatal and postnatal care.
2. **Community-Based Health Interventions:**
 - Conducted health check-ups for early detection of illnesses.
 - Created awareness campaigns on immunizations, nutrition, and the importance of regular medical consultations.
3. **Referral Systems:**
 - Established a network with local government and non-government hospitals to facilitate referrals for individuals requiring specialized care.
 - Assisted families in accessing affordable healthcare services and resources.
4. **Hygiene Promotion and Community Meetings:**
 - Delivered training sessions on personal hygiene, such as proper handwashing, sanitation practices, and maintaining a clean environment.
 - Organized community meetings to address health challenges and encourage collective action for improved community health.

Impact

- **Improved Health Awareness:** Mothers and children in targeted communities gained essential knowledge about primary healthcare practices, improving their ability to manage and prevent illnesses.
- **Increased Healthcare Access:** Referral systems ensured timely treatment for individuals with specific health conditions, reducing the burden of untreated diseases.
- **Enhanced Hygiene Practices:** Community members adopted better personal and household hygiene practices, reducing the prevalence of preventable diseases.
- **Stronger Community Networks:** Health-focused community meetings fostered collaboration and shared responsibility for health and well-being.

Success Stories

- **A Lifesaving Referral System:** A mother received timely care for her child, who was diagnosed with severe malnutrition during a community health check-up. The referral system connected her with a nearby hospital, ensuring proper treatment and recovery.
- **Hygiene Awareness Transformation:** Community meetings led to the establishment of a collective cleaning initiative, significantly reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases in the area.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Limited Resources:** The project faced challenges in meeting the demand for health check-ups and referrals due to resource constraints.
- **Cultural Barriers:** Initial resistance to adopting new health practices required tailored awareness campaigns to address misconceptions and cultural norms.
- **Sustainability:** Ensuring the long-term impact of hygiene practices and healthcare access will require continued engagement and resource allocation.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Semavi D, Netherlands, for their unwavering support in promoting community health. A special thanks to the healthcare professionals, local leaders, and community members who contributed their time and effort to make this initiative successful.

Project Highlight: “Integrated Livelihood Development Project”

Donor: METHODIST RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT FUND (MRDF) London

Location: Aditamri, Lalmonirhat

Overview

The “Integrated Livelihood Development Project” funded by MRDF London, focused on improving the livelihoods of marginalized communities by providing training on income-generating activities and fostering sustainable practices. The project aimed to empower individuals and families with the skills and resources needed to achieve economic independence, promote savings, and develop cooperative initiatives. Through its multifaceted approach, the project addressed various livelihood opportunities, including agriculture, livestock management, and afforestation.



Key Objectives

1. **Skill Development:** Provide training in diverse income-generating trades and activities to enable self-sufficiency.
2. **Savings Promotion:** Encourage a culture of savings among marginalized communities to ensure financial security.

3. **Sustainable Livelihoods:** Promote sustainable practices in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries to support long-term economic growth.
4. **Community Empowerment:** Foster cooperative models to strengthen community engagement and shared responsibility.



Implementation Strategies

1. **Training and Capacity Building:**

- Conducted skill-based training sessions on cattle rearing, poultry farming, fisheries, and agricultural practices.
- Organized workshops on financial literacy, including savings and basic accounting, to promote economic self-reliance.
- Provided education on sustainable afforestation techniques and legal frameworks for land and resource use.

2. **Income-Generating Activities:**

- Supported community members in establishing small-scale farms for poultry, cattle, and fishery operations.
- Encouraged diversification of livelihoods through agricultural innovation and forestation projects.

3. **Community Savings and Cooperatives:**

- Established savings groups to instill financial discipline and foster a collective mindset for resource sharing.
- Facilitated the formation of cooperatives to enable collective decision-making and shared benefits from community enterprises.

4. **Monitoring and Mentorship:**

- Provided ongoing mentorship to ensure the successful implementation of acquired skills and sustainable use of resources.
- Regularly monitored progress to address challenges and ensure alignment with project goals.

Activities of ESKS

Group Formation and Membership

In the operational areas, ESKS successfully created **30 primary groups** and **67 secondary groups**, fostering community participation and empowerment. The group composition is as follows:

- **Total Membership:**
 - **Male:** 185
 - **Female:** 1,355

Area-specific Details:

1. **Auditory Area:**
 - Primary Groups: 24
 - Secondary Groups: 59
 - Male Members: 170
 - Female Members: 1,160
2. **Lalmonirhat Area:**
 - Primary Groups: 6
 - Secondary Groups: 8
 - Male Members: 15
 - Female Members: 195

Key Outcomes of Group Formation:

- Enhanced unity and fellowship among members.
- Development of regular savings habits and financial discipline.
- Increased awareness about social responsibilities.
- Proper maintenance of resolution books and passbooks.
- Regular weekly meetings focusing on development issues.

Workshops and Awareness Activities

Major activities to promote social and human rights included:

- Workshops on **women's human rights**.
- Rallies and cultural programs on **child rights**, sponsored by the **Bangladesh Child Rights Forum**.
- Health-checking sessions supported by **government medical officers**.
- Discussion meetings to address community development and health concerns.

Skill Development Training

Training programs were organized to equip members with essential livelihood skills. The total number of trainings conducted includes:

- **Beef Fattening:** 38 sessions
- **Poultry Rearing:** 316 sessions
- **Goat Rearing:** 140 sessions
- **Livestock Rearing:** 255 sessions
- **Fish Culture:** 280 sessions
- **Small Trade Development:** 240 sessions

Credit Disbursement for Income-Generating Activities

1. Union-wise Credit Distribution:

- **Mughalhat Union:** BDT 1,05,000
- **Durgapur Union:** BDT 4,27,000
- **Kamlabari Union:** BDT 85,000
- **Sarpukur Union:** BDT 79,500
- **Saptibari Union:** BDT 93,000
- **Total Disbursement:** BDT 8,51,500

2. Activity-specific Credit Disbursement:

- **Poultry Rearing:** BDT 1,60,500
- **Goat Rearing:** BDT 1,91,000
- **Livestock and Beef Fattening:** BDT 3,24,500
- **Fish Culture:** BDT 52,000
- **Small Trade:** BDT 1,23,500
- **Total Disbursement:** BDT 8,51,500

Key Impacts of Activities

- Raised community awareness of rights and responsibilities.
- Improved economic resilience through skill training and credit support.
- Enhanced focus on gender equity and sustainable livelihoods.



Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** 1000 individuals and families benefited from training and support provided through this initiative.
- **Economic Growth:** Participants experienced improved income levels through newly established income-generating activities.
- **Community Collaboration:** Cooperatives established under the project fostered collective action and mutual support among members.
- **Sustainability:** Adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture, livestock management, and afforestation contributed to long-term community resilience.

Success Stories

- **Cattle Farming Success:** A family successfully utilized the training on cattle rearing to establish a small dairy business, significantly improving their income and living standards.
- **Savings Group Transformation:** Women formed a savings group that not only enhanced their financial security but also empowered them to invest in cooperative ventures like poultry farming.



Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Resource Constraints:** Limited access to initial capital for implementing income-generating activities highlighted the need for microfinance options.
- **Adoption Barriers:** Some community members were initially hesitant to adopt new practices, necessitating additional engagement and awareness-building.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Ensuring long-term viability of community enterprises required continuous training and support.

The “Cooperative Livelihood Development Project” showcases ESKS's commitment to empowering marginalized communities through skill development, resource management, and cooperative action, laying the foundation for sustainable economic growth.

Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere thanks to MRDF London for their generous support and partnership. We are also grateful to the communities, trainers, and local stakeholders whose collaboration ensured the success of this initiative.

Project Highlight: Non-Formal Education, Adult Literacy, and Afforestation Initiative

Donor: Proshika, Bangladesh

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

This project, generously financed by Proshika, Bangladesh, was a multi-faceted initiative that sought to address critical community challenges: improving access to education for marginalized groups and fostering environmental sustainability through afforestation efforts. It focused on providing non-formal education to dropped-out youths and teens, literacy training for illiterate adults, and promoting afforestation along roadsides to combat environmental degradation.



Key Objectives

1. **Non-Formal Education:** Reintegrate dropped-out youths and teens into the educational process by providing them with alternative learning opportunities equivalent to formal fifth-grade education.
2. **Adult Literacy:** Educate illiterate adults to enhance their reading, writing, and numeracy skills, empowering them to participate in social and economic activities.

3. **Afforestation Initiatives:** Promote tree planting along roadsides and in community spaces to restore greenery, improve air quality, and combat climate change.

Activities of ESKS

Establishment of Non-Formal Schools

As part of its education initiatives, ESKS established five non-formal primary education centers in its project areas to ensure accessible learning opportunities for underprivileged children.

In the village of Bhelabari, a school named Morich Bari was set up, where 17 male learners and 13 female learners, totaling 30 students, were enrolled.

In Salmara, two schools were established. The first, named Nadir Paar, had 20 male learners and 10 female learners, totaling 30 students. The second, Majpara, enrolled 15 male and 15 female learners, also totaling 30 students.

In the village of Jigapara, a school bearing the same name, Jigapara, was founded. It had 14 male learners and 16 female learners, adding up to 30 students.

Overall Learner Statistics

Across these five schools, a total of 78 male learners and 72 female learners were enrolled, bringing the grand total to 150 students.

Key Achievements

These efforts have significantly improved access to primary education for disadvantaged children in the project areas, promoting gender equity in education and contributing to the holistic development of rural communities.

Implementation Strategies

1. **Education for Youths and Teens:**

- Established community-based non-formal education centers for school dropouts.
- Designed curricula aligned with fifth-grade formal education standards to bridge gaps in learning.
- Focused on skills that prepare youths for formal education reentry or vocational training.

2. **Adult Literacy Programs:**

- Conducted literacy classes for adults, emphasizing practical skills like basic math, reading, and writing.
- Incorporated life skills education to enable participants to make informed decisions in their daily lives.

3. **Afforestation Projects:**

- Organized community tree-planting events along roadsides and in other public spaces.
- Provided training on tree care and maintenance to ensure the sustainability of afforestation efforts.

- Engaged local communities in promoting environmental stewardship.

Impact

- **Reintegration of Youths:** Many dropped-out students were able to resume their education or transition to vocational training programs, offering them a pathway to a better future.
- **Empowered Adults:** Literacy programs enabled adults to engage more actively in community activities, manage household finances, and access better employment opportunities.
- **Environmental Benefits:** The afforestation initiative enhanced the community's greenery, reduced soil erosion, and contributed to a healthier environment for future generations.

Success Stories

- **Empowering a Young Learner:** A 16-year-old dropout attended a non-formal education center and later enrolled in a vocational training program, now earning a stable income to support their family.
- **A Literate Entrepreneur:** A 45-year-old participant of the literacy program successfully opened a small shop after learning how to maintain basic financial records.
- **Restoring Community Pride:** Roadside afforestation in [Insert Location] transformed barren lands into green corridors, instilling a sense of pride and ownership among local residents.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Educational Engagement:** Initially, convincing dropped-out youths and adults to join the programs required persistent outreach and community trust-building.
- **Afforestation Maintenance:** Ensuring community involvement in tree care was critical for the sustainability of the afforestation efforts.
- **Resource Limitations:** Expanding the program to underserved areas required additional funding and logistical support.

Acknowledgments

Our deepest gratitude goes to Proshika, Bangladesh, for their generous support of this transformative project. Special thanks to the educators, community leaders, and volunteers who made this initiative a success through their unwavering dedication.

Project Highlight: Adult Literacy for Absolute Illiterates

Donor: Danny Doe, Denmark (Denmark-based Donor Agency)

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

This transformative project, financed by the Denmark-based donor agency Danny Doe, focused on addressing the issue of adult illiteracy among the most marginalized and underserved communities. It aimed to uplift adults who were completely illiterate, providing them with the foundational skills necessary to read, write, and improve their quality of life.



Key Objectives

1. **Literacy for All:** Deliver targeted literacy programs to absolute illiterates, enabling them to acquire basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills.
2. **Empowerment through Education:** Promote self-reliance and social participation by equipping participants with essential life skills.
3. **Community Engagement:** Foster a culture of learning within communities by encouraging collective efforts to eliminate adult illiteracy.

Implementation Strategies

1. **Customized Literacy Programs:**
 - Developed tailored learning modules for adults with no prior educational exposure.
 - Incorporated practical lessons focusing on everyday literacy needs, such as reading signs, writing basic forms, and simple calculations.
2. **Community Learning Centers:**
 - Established easily accessible literacy centers within the community.
 - Engaged local volunteers and educators to provide a supportive and familiar learning environment.
3. **Awareness Campaigns:**
 - Conducted outreach programs to encourage participation among hesitant individuals.
 - Highlighted the benefits of literacy, such as improved financial management, better healthcare understanding, and enhanced employability.
4. **Skill Integration:**
 - Integrated life skills training into the literacy curriculum, covering areas like hygiene, nutrition, and civic awareness.

Impact

- **Breaking the Cycle of Illiteracy:** Hundreds of adults transitioned from being unable to recognize letters to confidently reading and writing basic texts.
- **Enhanced Livelihoods:** Newly literate individuals were better equipped to manage small businesses, apply for jobs, and access government programs.
- **Strengthened Communities:** The initiative fostered a collective sense of purpose, bringing communities together to prioritize education for all.

Success Stories

- **A New Chapter for a Mother:** A 40-year-old mother learned to read and write for the first time, empowering her to help her children with homework and manage household expenses more effectively.
- **Empowered Vendor:** A street vendor used newly acquired numeracy skills to expand his business and maintain accurate records, significantly increasing his income.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Overcoming Stigma:** Many participants initially hesitated to join due to social stigma surrounding adult education. Community leaders played a crucial role in addressing these concerns.

- **Sustaining Engagement:** Maintaining interest over the course of the program required innovative teaching methods and regular motivation.
- **Logistical Barriers:** Reaching remote areas with literacy centers posed logistical challenges, which were addressed through mobile learning units.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Danny Doe, Denmark, for their generous support and belief in the power of education. This project would not have been possible without the dedication of our educators, volunteers, and community members who worked tirelessly to transform lives through literacy.

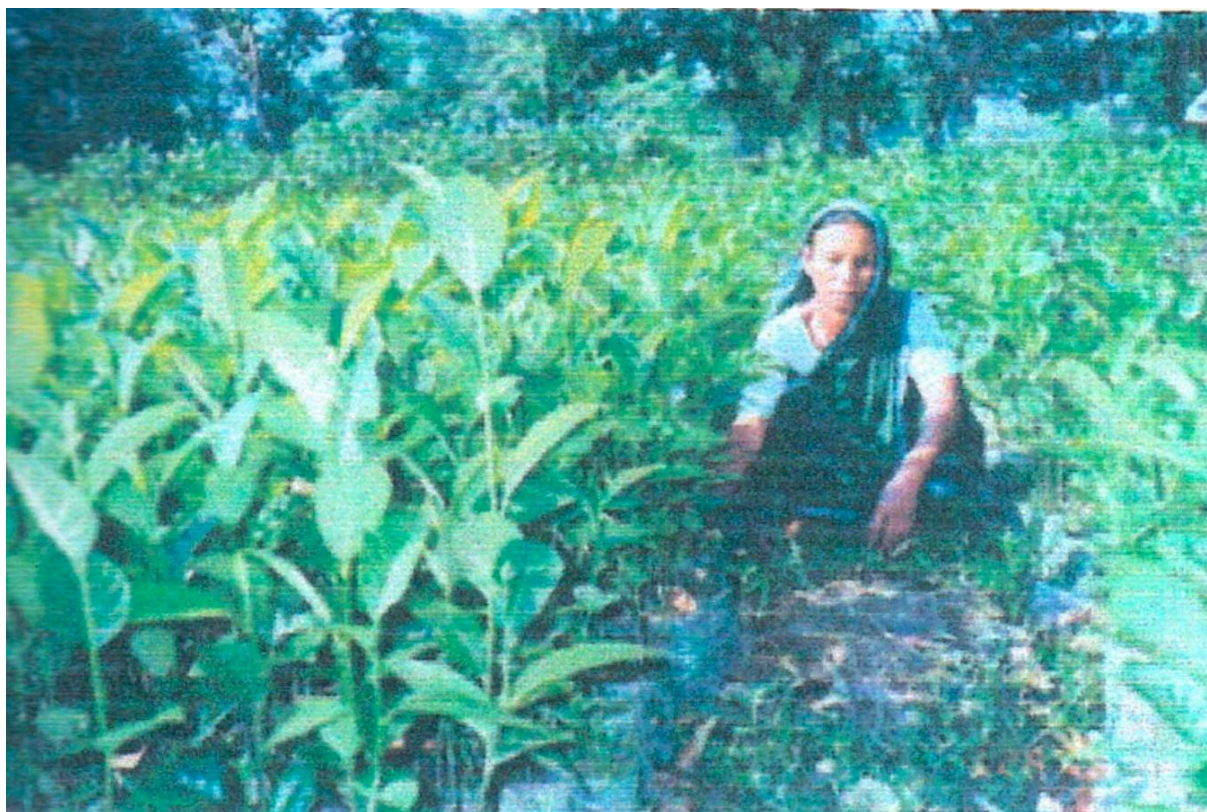
Project Highlight: “Nursery Project for Revitalizing Barren Lands”

Donor: Social Welfare Department, People's Republic of Bangladesh

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

The “Nursery Project for Revitalizing Barren Lands,” funded by the Social Welfare Department of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, focused on transforming unproductive and barren lands in the local area into thriving nurseries. This initiative mobilized and trained community members to utilize these lands for sustainable and productive purposes. By fostering skills in nursery development and land revitalization, the project contributed to environmental conservation, improved livelihoods, and the optimal use of underutilized resources.



Key Objectives

1. **Land Revitalization:** Encourage the transformation of barren and unproductive plots into vibrant nurseries.
2. **Skill Development:** Provide training to community members on nursery creation, maintenance, and plant cultivation.
3. **Community Mobilization:** Engage local communities to participate actively in sustainable land use and environmental preservation.
4. **Economic Opportunities:** Create income-generating opportunities through nursery development and the sale of plants and trees.

Implementation Strategies

1. **Training Programs:**
 - Conducted workshops on nursery development, focusing on plant propagation, soil preparation, and maintenance techniques.
 - Educated participants on sustainable agricultural practices to ensure long-term success of the nurseries.
2. **Community Mobilization Mechanisms:**
 - Organized awareness sessions to highlight the potential of barren land for productive use.
 - Facilitated collaboration among local residents to share resources and expertise in nursery management.
3. **Resource Support:**
 - Provided essential tools, seeds, and saplings to kick-start nursery development.
 - Introduced innovative methods for water conservation and soil enrichment to optimize nursery outputs.
4. **Monitoring and Guidance:**
 - Established a support system to provide ongoing mentorship and address challenges faced during the implementation process.
 - Monitored progress to ensure alignment with the project's goals of environmental and economic sustainability.

Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** 1000 community members received training and support to establish nurseries.
- **Environmental Gains:** Revitalized barren plots into productive green spaces, contributing to environmental conservation.
- **Economic Benefits:** Participants generated additional income through the sale of plants, trees, and nursery products.
- **Community Engagement:** Fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility among local residents for sustainable land use.

Success Stories

- **Thriving Nurseries:** A group of farmers transformed previously unproductive land into a flourishing nursery, producing fruit and timber saplings for local and commercial use.
- **Economic Independence:** Women participants leveraged their nursery training to create small businesses, selling plants to nearby markets and improving their family income.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Initial Resistance:** Some community members were hesitant to engage due to a lack of confidence in the viability of the project, requiring extensive awareness efforts.
- **Resource Constraints:** Ensuring access to water and tools for all participants was a logistical challenge that was addressed through community resource pooling.
- **Long-Term Engagement:** Sustaining interest and productivity required consistent monitoring and periodic refresher training sessions.

The “Nursing Project for Revitalizing Barren Lands” highlights ESKS’s commitment to sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and economic empowerment through innovative community-driven initiatives.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Social Welfare Department of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh for their visionary support. We are also thankful to the local community members, trainers, and stakeholders for their active participation in making this project a success.

Project Highlight: “Livestock and Poultry Development Project”

Donor: Department of Health and Youth Development, People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Location: Lalmonirhat

Overview

The “Livestock and Poultry Development Project,” funded by the Department of Health and Youth Development, aimed to enhance the livelihoods of local communities by fostering sustainable cattle, chicken, and duck rearing practices. This initiative focused on equipping participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully manage livestock and poultry while promoting the formation of cooperative societies for collective action and long-term sustainability. By building capacity and fostering interest in livestock and poultry farming, the project contributed to economic empowerment and community resilience.

Key Objectives

1. **Skill Development:** Provide comprehensive training in cattle, chicken, and duck rearing techniques.
2. **Cooperative Formation:** Promote the establishment of cooperative societies to enable resource sharing and mutual support.
3. **Economic Empowerment:** Foster sustainable income-generating opportunities through livestock and poultry farming.
4. **Community Mobilization:** Engage local communities in collective efforts for sustainable and profitable farming practices.

Implementation Strategies

1. **Training Programs:**
 - Conducted hands-on training sessions on modern techniques for cattle rearing, poultry farming, and disease management.
 - Educated participants on effective feeding, breeding, and housing practices to maximize productivity.
2. **Formation of Cooperative Societies:**
 - Encouraged the establishment of local cooperatives to share resources, expertise, and market access.
 - Provided guidance on managing cooperatives, ensuring equitable benefits for all members.

3. **Resource Support:**

- Supplied starter kits, including livestock, poultry, feed, and basic tools, to help participants initiate farming activities.
- Introduced cost-effective solutions for farm management and veterinary care.

4. **Community Mobilization:**

- Conducted awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of livestock and poultry farming.
- Fostered a collaborative approach by engaging community leaders and stakeholders in project activities.

5. **Monitoring and Mentorship:**

- Provided continuous support through regular follow-ups and mentoring sessions.
- Addressed challenges faced by participants, ensuring long-term sustainability of their farming ventures.

Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** Individuals and families received training and resources to start or enhance their livestock and poultry farming practices.
- **Economic Growth:** Participants reported increased income and improved financial stability due to successful farming ventures.
- **Community Collaboration:** Cooperative societies strengthened community bonds and enabled collective problem-solving.
- **Livelihood Sustainability:** The project promoted sustainable farming practices, ensuring long-term benefits for participants and the environment.

Success Stories

- **Empowering Youth:** A group of young farmers in [Insert Location] successfully formed a cooperative society and started poultry farming, significantly improving their income and fostering a sense of entrepreneurship.
- **Sustainable Cattle Rearing:** Families in [Insert Community] utilized the training to rear cattle efficiently, producing dairy products for both personal use and commercial sale.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Initial Resistance:** Convincing community members to adopt cooperative farming required extensive awareness and motivational efforts.
- **Resource Allocation:** Ensuring equitable distribution of livestock and tools among participants was a logistical challenge that needed careful planning.
- **Sustainability:** Long-term success depended on regular follow-ups, refresher training, and access to veterinary care.

The “Livestock and Poultry Development Project” underscores ESKS’s commitment to empowering communities through sustainable agricultural practices, cooperative action, and skill development.

Acknowledgments

We are deeply thankful to the Department of Health and Youth Development, People's Republic of Bangladesh, for their financial support and guidance. Special thanks to the trainers, community leaders, and participants for their dedication and collaboration, which were pivotal to the project's success.

Management Structure of ESKS

General Body

The General Body is the supreme decision-making entity of ESKS, ensuring that the organization remains focused on its mission and objectives. It comprises committed members from diverse backgrounds who contribute their expertise and resources to guide the organization. The General Body's responsibilities include:

- Reviewing progress and approving the annual report to maintain transparency and accountability.
- Providing strategic guidance to ensure that the organization's programs align with its mission.
- Electing the Executive Committee and overseeing its activities to ensure alignment with organizational goals.

The General Body convenes annually for these purposes and maintains oversight of the Executive Committee's performance throughout the year.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the primary governing body responsible for steering ESKS toward its long-term goals. Comprising elected members with diverse professional backgrounds, the committee ensures the strategic vision of ESKS is effectively implemented.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Key Members:

- **President:**
 - Serves as the head of the organization, providing overall leadership and strategic direction.
 - Represents ESKS at national and international forums, building partnerships and advocating for its cause.
 - Ensures that all organizational activities align with the approved mission and objectives.
- **Vice-President:**
 - Assists the President in their duties and steps into the leadership role in the President's absence.
 - Supports program and policy implementation through close collaboration with the team.
- **Secretary-General:**
 - Oversees the execution of Executive Committee decisions and ensures smooth day-to-day operations.
 - Acts as a key link between the Executive Committee and program teams, facilitating effective communication and coordination.
- **Treasurer:**
 - Manages the financial operations of the organization, including the preparation of budgets, financial reporting, and auditing.
 - Ensures compliance with donor and regulatory requirements, maintaining financial transparency and integrity.

Program Personnel

ESKS employs a team of skilled and dedicated program personnel to implement its activities effectively. This team includes project managers, field officers, coordinators, and trainers. Their responsibilities include:

- Designing and executing projects aligned with ESKS's mission.
- Monitoring and evaluating program activities to ensure they deliver meaningful and sustainable outcomes.
- Conducting capacity-building sessions and workshops for beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Accounts and Administration Department

This department ensures operational efficiency and compliance in all financial and administrative matters. Its key responsibilities are:

- **Accounts Management:**
 - Maintaining accurate financial records and preparing budgets.
 - Ensuring compliance with donor requirements through regular financial audits.
 - Managing disbursement of funds for project activities.
- **Administration:**
 - Handling logistics, procurement, and human resources.
 - Ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently to support program implementation.
 - Facilitating communication and documentation to maintain operational transparency.

Collaborative Leadership

The management structure of ESKS is designed to encourage collaboration across all levels, from the General Body to program personnel. Regular meetings, feedback mechanisms, and transparent communication ensure that all members work together to achieve the organization's mission of empowering the disadvantaged and promoting gender equity.

Program Personnel

The program personnel of ESKS consist of a skilled team of professionals dedicated to implementing and managing the organization's projects effectively. Their work ensures that the initiatives remain aligned with ESKS's mission and create meaningful, sustainable impacts in the communities served.

Key Responsibilities of Program Personnel:

1. **Project Design and Execution:**
 - Developing projects that address community needs and align with ESKS's mission and objectives.
 - Implementing projects through well-structured plans to maximize impact.
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
 - Tracking progress and measuring outcomes to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of programs.
 - Identifying areas for improvement and applying lessons learned to future initiatives.
3. **Capacity Building:**

- Conducting training sessions, workshops, and awareness campaigns to empower stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- Enhancing the skills and knowledge of community members to promote self-reliance.

Accounts and Administration Department

The Accounts and Administration Department serves as the backbone of ESKS, ensuring smooth operations and compliance with financial and administrative protocols.

Core Functions of the Department:

Accounts Management:

1. **Financial Record-Keeping:**
 - Maintaining accurate, transparent financial records of all transactions.
2. **Budget Preparation and Compliance:**
 - Preparing detailed budgets for various projects and activities.
 - Ensuring adherence to donor requirements and regulatory standards.
3. **Auditing and Accountability:**
 - Conducting regular audits to uphold financial accountability and integrity.
 - Providing financial reports to donors, stakeholders, and governing bodies.

Administration:

1. **Daily Operations Management:**
 - Coordinating logistics, procurement, and resource allocation to support program implementation.
2. **Human Resource Oversight:**
 - Managing recruitment, training, and support for employees to ensure effective program delivery.
3. **Documentation and Compliance:**
 - Maintaining organizational records and ensuring compliance with internal policies and external regulations.

Concluding Remarks

The annual report of Ekota Samaj Kallyan Sangstha (ESKS) reflects a year of dedicated effort toward achieving its mission of fostering empowerment, equity, and sustainable development in the communities it serves. The report underscores the organization's multifaceted approach to addressing pressing social challenges, ranging from gender inequality and education gaps to economic vulnerability and human rights issues.

The creation of numerous primary and secondary groups has been instrumental in uniting community members and fostering solidarity. The significant participation of women highlights ESKS's unwavering commitment to empowering women as pivotal agents of change. The consistent habit of savings developed within these groups has not only improved financial stability but also encouraged self-reliance and collective growth.

The comprehensive array of activities, including workshops, cultural programs, and skill-development training, showcases ESKS's holistic approach to community development. Programs addressing women's human rights, child rights, health awareness, and income-generating activities have left a tangible impact, enabling individuals to build better lives for themselves and their families.

Educational initiatives, such as the establishment of non-formal schools, have been particularly impactful in bridging the education gap for marginalized children. The participation of both male and female learners underscores the organization's inclusive approach to fostering a better-educated generation.

The financial interventions, which include credit disbursements for diverse income-generating activities like poultry, livestock rearing, and small trade, have played a critical role in enhancing economic resilience at the grassroots level. These initiatives have not only boosted household incomes but also contributed to the economic stability of the wider community.

Overall, ESKS's achievements during the reporting period exemplify its commitment to creating sustainable, impactful change. The organization's well-structured governance and dedicated team have ensured that every activity aligns with its mission and vision, while its transparent financial management has upheld the trust of its stakeholders.

As ESKS continues its journey, the lessons learned and the milestones achieved this year serve as a strong foundation for future initiatives. The organization remains resolute in its goal to foster equity, resilience, and empowerment across all its projects, making a lasting difference in the lives of the people it serves.