

Empower a Woman - Empower a Community

BGD-SYM-EWC-P03



Central Northern Bangladesh



Economic Empowerment



Tax deductible

Total Budget

Project Timeline

\$60,000

JUL 21

JUN 24



Overview

Bangladesh has a population of 163 million people. Almost 25% of the people are living below the national poverty line and those living in rural areas are particularly disadvantaged. The area is highly prone to frequent flooding often damaging crops, houses and infrastructure and spreading disease. The aim of this project was to transform and equip rural communities by improving literacy through functional education, self-help group formation, economic empowerment and encouraging behavioural change. The work focussed particularly on women who are functionally landless and illiterate as well as their families and children. Families also benefitted from 30 children being integrated into mainstream education.

Objectives

Impact



Education course for women

Women who join a SHG receive eight months of informal literacy and numeracy education. Additionally, they attend awareness sessions on health, nutrition, social and environmental issues and child safety.



Establish 10 SHGs for 200 women

There are now 41 active Self Help Groups comprising 676 women. These groups improve economic status, increase household income and better living standards for families through savings and loans programs.



Capacity building for existing SHGs

Capacity building enhances economic stability, financial independence and entrepreneurship skills within the groups. 5 SHGs are now functioning independently as CBOs (Community Based Organisations).



Pre-school education for children

A total of 60 children completed pre-school aged education during the three year period and were integrated into mainstream primary schools. 60 families were introduced to formal education and opportunities for their children.



Life change

- Long-term wellbeing and a model of change (by integrating financial, education, health and environmental activities) that is driven by transformation from within.
- Communities learning to work and save together to fund loan schemes to increase incomes through income generating activities.
- 60 children integrated into mainstream education after preschool learning.



Surma's Story

My husband was a day labourer and I added to our income by raising chickens. But it was barely enough to support our two young children and we only just scraped by. After completing 8 months of education and joining a savings group, I diligently saved and was able to take out a loan to buy an old auto-rickshaw for my husband. After deducting loans repayments and other expenses, I am able to deposit 2-3000 Tk (\$30) per month. I feel so happy to have had the loan which has improved the quality of our life. It makes me more determined than ever to succeed and see my children gain higher education and find secure employment.

Functional education classes



Rasheda's Story

Our family was constantly facing financial hardship. To supplement my husband's day labourer job, I would grow a few vegetables in our small courtyard. After joining the women's savings group, I learned about income earning opportunities, current social issues, staying healthy and environmental issues. I saved enough to secure a loan for an auto-rickshaw for my husband and now my profits are 3-4000 Tk (\$44) per month. I am also raising poultry and goats which earns an extra \$14 monthly.

Our whole family is eating more nutritious food and my dream is that one day my daughter (18) and son (12) will have stable jobs and even have access to higher education.

