

# SOHAY

## THE GARMENTS CHANGE THE LOOK

In addition to its social development responsibility, SOHAY is keen to assist the poor and try and bring comfort to their lives in other ways such as the old garments distribution. The environment during the dress distribution is always heart touching, it is felt by those who attend the programme and is very difficult to express in words. Sohel, age 5 is an orphan and lives with his grandparents received one set of the outfits, he jumped up and down couple of times in excitement, his beaming smile touched the hearts of all SOHAY stay. Sohel's grandmother told us it was the first gift he has ever received.



If you imagine a picture of a group of slum children, you will probably be thinking of old worn out dirty outfits too small. The pictures on this report are very different. You have made this happen! If you take a close look at the outfits, the expressions on the children's faces, the joy, these children are preparing for a fashion show. SOHAY would like to say a big thank you to all of you who donated to this month's 'Old Dress Distribution'!

As of today SOHAY, has collected and distributed a total of 287 old garments in its working slums. The report is part of SOHAY's accountability to report back to the people have donated the garments. SOHAY received the overwhelming response after its 'Old Garments Appeal'. The staff of a Foundation and some individuals donated these garments. It is also important to inform you that SOHAY works with more than 3,000 slum dwelling people in Uttara and Dhakkhin Khan unions. Under its supervision, **1,178** slum children are continuing their primary level education, **869** of them are going to the four different Government Primary Schools. SOHAY's programme strategy is so effective that all children in its working slums are going to the schools. It is planning to widen its working areas.



Due to the economy and many other socio-economic factors, the influx of people to the urban areas has increased horrendously, most of these people end up in slums. The inhabitants of these slums are economically vulnerable. Most families struggle to provide just two meals a day for their family let alone adequate clothing for their children. Most children only have the minimum basic clothes. These garments are precious commodities to them. They were overwhelmed, lost words to express their feelings.



The slum dwellers are illiterate and unskilled; they get by doing menial jobs. They earn very little struggling to survive. SOHAY has discovered it does not take long to re-skill and engage them in the major economic wheel if there is proper guidance and managerial support present. They are hard working people. SOHAY is moving in that direction.

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world but it produces good garments. More than 2 million garments workers livelihoods depend on it. I am sure some of us reading this story put on Bangladesh made products. Being one of the major garments making countries, more than half of its total 145 million population live below the poverty line and have just the minimum clothes. The condition of women and children is severe. Unfortunately, some of these children are the progeny of these garments workers.



The number of garments SOHAY distributed was inadequate. SOHAY strongly urges if you have old garments gathering dust, please distribute it to the poor or contact us we will ensure appropriate distribution.

I would like to strongly advise my colleagues have ensured proper distribution of these garments with dedication and passion. It would have been difficult to report back with confidence without their hard work. SOHAY feels those that have the capacity should come forward to help the society.

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