

SKILL IS THE KEY
SUPPORT HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME
IS THE STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD FOR
BANGLADESH



Bangladesh is one of the poorest populous countries in the world. Almost 16 million people are living in a small place on earth half of them live below the poverty line. The literacy rate is 56% (2000 est.) still a long way to go to reach the target. In the mean time a portion of young population are growing illiterate and unskilled. In future the country will suffer unless initiatives are taken now to enhance their capacity. Short course on different trades to enhance people capacity are short term way forward. A clear strategic intervention is required to tackle national requirement. The initiatives from different corners are the key.



The country is geographically located in strategic position on the world atlas two ports are next to Bay of Bengal, two emerging economy China and India are very close and full with human resources. The best use of the above opportunities and human resources shove the economic wheel faster to reach 8 percent GDP growth. It will not take long time materializing our dream seeing Bangladesh a middle income country.



SOHAY is a national non-government not for profit social develop organisation is very concern about the future of large number of young population who are illiterate and unskilled but could easily turn to national asset if get proper guidance and training on different trades. Their contribution would be overwhelmed by their family and overall economic growth.



Two years ago SOHAY found lot of teenage children and young women in its working areas were interested to receive short trade course to enhance their skills and aptitude. They were eager to do something through which they can earn for their own and for family. Observing the interest of the local community SOHAY wrote to many people could contribute to the programme. The responses were very good the contribution allowed SOHAY ran short trade courses for 128 teen age children and women for last two years.





SOHAY in addition to the skills training linked the beneficiaries to the market. This help them establishing relationship with the local market. Out of total trainees 20 trainees already bought sewing machines to ensure on time delivery of products. SOHAY is aware other participants are also planning to do the same. Their financial contributions change their families' economic situation, now they are important and valued family members and participate in the household decision making enjoying social status.



In addition to the skills development training SOHAY also aware them on their rights, health, education and other issues are very important for individual and family life.

The current focus of SOHAY's trade programme is to create master tailor and embroidery maker, SOHAY is thinking extending its vocational programme to other areas and build collaborating relationship with the government bodies run youth employment programme to give a) wider coverage and b) include rural children and young population in the vocational programme.



As the programme was running by individual donors' contribution it is now suffering due to shortage of fund, so, SOHAY is looking forward contribution from people and organisation can assist such kind of programme that are very much critical for Bangladesh population specially women and teen age girls. The skill development programme delays their marriage and saves from disregard, because they are not burden rather than an earning family member. We know support to the individual skill development is the most sustainable way to assist human for her/his survival and worth living on this beautiful world. The sustainability of such programme last beyond individual's demise.



Zamila Sultana
Executive Director

SOHAY (A catalyst to change human life)
Email: sohay2004@yahoo.com