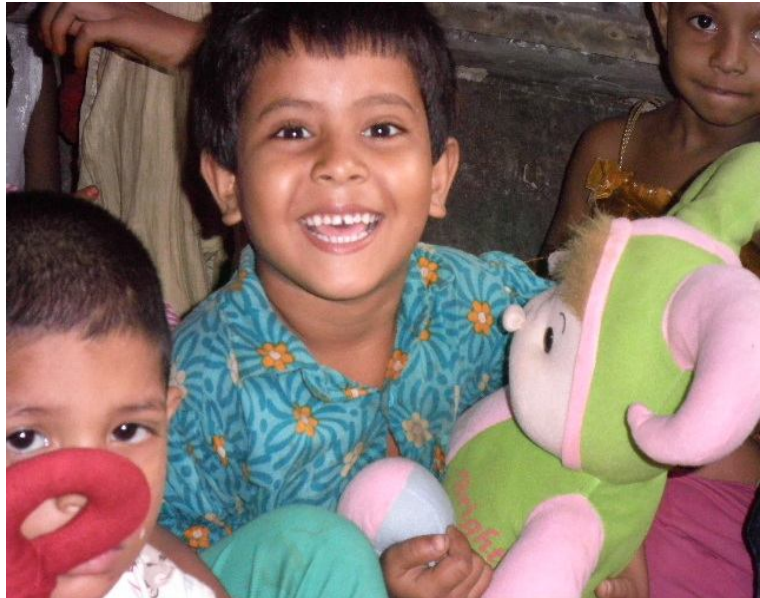


THE OLD TOYS AND DRESSES ARE PRECIOUS AND PRICELESS FOR DEPRIVED CHILDREN

The children could not believe this could happen, people could be kind to them. Their life has not started yet but already exposed to unkind behavior and deprivation. They were bewildered, spell-bound and astonished when they touched the toys and heard these are for them. Their expressions were open, honest, unambiguous, transparent and clear. Their first sentence was Oh what a sweet and fine toys!! I am very happy. Their jubilation tells what was happening inside them, the trembling of their hearts were



sparking on their faces. SOHAY is unsure it had experienced such children jubilation before. The above has happened when SOHAY was distributing old toys, shoes and dresses to the slum children donated by a Bangladeshi SOHAY friend.

SOHAY works in 15 urban slums in Dhaka. It is supporting about 1,300 slum children for their development all go to the Government Primary schools for education. SOHAY strongly feels children both the urban and rural areas should use Government facilities for education hence took deliberate strategy not to open its own schools. Habit of using Government facilities in childhood will haul them using Government facilities in future. Personal urge will demand better service and make service providers accountable. In addition to supporting children SOHAY works with their parents, adolescent girls and community on other important issues, e.g. how to take family forward, adult literacy,

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people rights, women education and rights, violence against women, adolescent girls' health, water and sanitation, basic skills for employment and other sanitary issues for making the slum a proper living place.

The slum dwellers in SOHAY working areas are poor live on menial jobs e.g. day laborer, rickshaw puller, push cart driver and helper, small and petty traders, local public transport drivers and helpers and street baggers. They pass days on very minimum, struggle to ensure food and other basic family needs, so impracticable to think for precious and costly toys for children.

Bangladesh is a poor and populous country, half of the total populations are economic poor, and a big chunk lives below the poverty line. But the country growth is 5-7% per year for last two decades, making a group rich and capable could afford costly toys for their children. Old toys in those families lost children attraction by new supplies start gathering dust and end up in dustbin after some time.



The next picture shows the above steps by rich families for obsolete toys are wrong. These toys are still attracted and priceless to another group of children who are growing under the hardship, and these can effortlessly bring natural smiles on their faces.

The collection of old toys and dresses are not SOHAY's regular job and part of its programme delivery activities but SOHAY does this in addition to its regular activities, because it always encourage others to think twice before throwing toys, old dresses and

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other obsolete stuff to dustbin. SOHAY strongly feels if you look around will find good places to handover these stuffs and see proper use of it. However, if you fail to find please send these to us or give us a buzz we will collect and distribute in the slums. SOHAY is ready to do any job that brings smiles on poor people face and happiness in their life.

The dresses we distributed were old but after proper wash and iron the glamour returned and changed

children outlook. We know many dresses we distributed will be their Eid dress and regular outfits for precious family functions. The next picture may misguide, you may think these are rich families' children. No, they are not they live in slums and in hardship. The outfits change their look different



than used to. Hence, please think twice before throw away obsolete items, you will find people in your door steps or a bit further could use these, if failed to find pass on to us we will ensure proper distribution.

Let us work together to bring relief to poor people hard life and choreograph their future pathway to the right direction. SOHAY is committed to work restless until the poverty is eradicated and MDGs have achieved.

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