

Small initiative but Praiseworthy

SOHAY children education programme is playing an effective role to ensure school enrolment of slum children at Dhaka urban area in Bangladesh. As SOHAY's programme planning, delivery, methodology and strategy is effective, appropriate and conducive to bring slum children to the education arena, not only to enrol them in the system but also to provide the required support to ensure they continue schooling. SOHAY believe Millennium Development 2 "Universal Primary Education for all" is attainable if we repeat and replicate SOHAY's programme delivery strategy in other areas in the country and outside.

In this context SOHAY is working with the Dhaka slum children development through provide education and skills. SOHAY's education programme are playing important role to ensure their education and continuation through different a holistic assistance such as pre-schooling, admission, tutorial, education materials support and many others. SOHAY think it not



SOHAY's Executive Director distribute school uniform among the children

possible to ensure their continuation in education without this support. Whereas most of the slum families struggle to provide just two meals a day for their family let alone adequate education support for their children.

Though primary education is free in Bangladesh but slum students need different support to continue their education. Among them one of the biggest obstacles standing in the way of slum children dream of continuing education is one sets of uniform as the slum families are simply too poor to afford it. As most children only have the minimum basic clothes but school uniforms are precious commodities to them.

In this year SOHAY distribute school uniform (including bags, shoes) among their all supported children by supporting Manusher Jonno, Global Fund for Children and Global Giving's money. As school uniform has enormous social impact on slum family and their children development. It brings equality among the children and



Children express their feeling after get uniform

eliminates the economic differences; it places them on the same podium where they are judged on effort and achievement, not on appearance or social background. The children feel they look very smart and can interact and form friendships with others. After holding the uniforms in their hands they were so happy they could not express the feeling in words. The Parents were also joyful, seeing their children so happy. Beside those the uniform distribution ceremony opens other opportunities for the children as it assist the slum children to build their capacity, enhance confidence, self-reliance and leadership.

At the end it is very praiseworthy news for SOHAY as the SOHAY-Global Fund for Children project acceptance and expansion is impressive and geometric in the slum communities. Because of SOHAY is continuously receiving requests from local elites and conscious citizens, to expand its programme to other areas to provide similar support to the slum children. SOHAY is fully aware it must expand its programme. Unfortunately, it is the budget that is holding us back. However, SOHAY is fully aware soon the need, demand and capacity of delivery will consider the expansion of its education programme more than any other issues